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THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is supplied regularly to every member of the following Societies:—

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.
 South African Pharmaceutical Association.
 Pharmaceutical Society of Natal.
 Central Pharmaceutical Association of N.Z.
 Otago Pharmaceutical Association.
 Pharmaceutical Society of Queensland.
 Pharmaceutical Society of South Australia.
 Pharmaceutical Society of Western Australia.

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MERCHANT SHIPPERS.

THE export number of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST will be published next week. It will be a really good business number, addressed to all the merchant shippers of the United Kingdom—that is, the men who have the giving away of big orders for drugs, chemicals, and druggists' goods, and paying cash for them. The issue has hitherto been a profitable one for those who advertise in it, and we strongly recommend firms who have not yet given the publisher instructions, to secure space from him at once. We can take advertisements up to Wednesday morning, March 11, but not after. Supplement advertisements will be received as usual up to Thursday.

Summary.

FURTHER alterations in Store-prices are noted on p. 338.

SOME interesting quotations for carbolic acid and powder are given on p. 339.

It is proposed in Jersey to adopt the provisions of the Pharmacy Act, 1868 (p. 338).

A LONDON CHEMIST has been fined 40*l.* for infringements of the Medicine-stamp Act (p. 347).

"CHEATING the doctors" is what Mr. Coroner Wynn Westcott considers chemists' prescribing to be (p. 338).

TWO English vendors of "Microbe-killer" in Paris have been fined for infringements of the Medical Act (p. 340).

WE print an abstract of a paper by Mr. R. H. Jones on the enzymes of the pancreas, showing the relative action of the bodies (p. 345).

MR. J. C. UMNEY communicates to us a note on citronella oil, in which he points out that wood-oil distillates are used for adulterating it (p. 356).

WE report the presentation of a portrait of Mr. Cornelius Hanbury to that gentleman, by the employes of Allen & Hanburys (Limited) (p. 350).

ANTI-CUTTING meetings have been held at Plymouth and Exeter. We report the former on page 357. The Exeter meeting was held while we were going to press.

THE Exchange Column is beginning a new career to-day. It will be found in our coloured supplement, and a great many bargains are announced, as noted on p. 355.

THE death is announced of Mr. Paul Wardropper, of Cullercoats, Northumberland, at the age of 92. He is said to have been the oldest chemist in England (p. 351).

A DOCTOR whose name appeared on the prospectus of a hydropathic hotel has recovered 150*l.* damages from the *British Medical Journal*, which had condemned his conduct (p. 355).

PHOSPHATE syrups were the subject of a paper read by Mr. John Black to the Glasgow Association. The author gave some hints for securing the iron phosphate in a ferrous state (p. 346).

THE Chemical Section of the London Chamber of Commerce met on Thursday, and amongst other things discussed a proposal to make the B.P. a standard under the Food and Drugs Act (p. 358).

UNDER Company News the meetings of several companies connected with the drug-trade are reported, Bleasdales (Limited) and the Sanitas Company (Limited) amongst them, and "both are doing well" (p. 348).

MR. G. F. SCHACHT is retiring from the Pharmaceutical Council, and his fellow-members are, in consequence, much grieved by the announcement, as will be seen by reference to the report of the Pharmaceutical Council meeting (p. 343).

DR. INGLIS CLARK and Mr. D. B. Dott have investigated the preparation of spt. æther. co., and find that it is unnecessary to expose the oil-of-wine distillate to the air. The consequence is a revised formula for the Pharmacopœia (p. 344).

THE Shops (Early Closing) Bill will not be opposed by the Pharmaceutical Council; nevertheless, some of the members seem bitterly averse to the measure (p. 342). The Bill has been referred to the Grand Committee on Trade (p. 355). We comment upon the question (p. 352).

MESSRS. CANTRELL & COCHRANE, of Dublin and Belfast, having unsuccessfully sought to establish their trade-mark right to the title of "Club-soda" in Jamaica, appealed to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and have got the Jamaica judgment reversed (p. 347).

AT Wednesday's meeting of the Pharmaceutical Council, Mr. Carteighe reported that the President of the Board of Trade now thoroughly understood the position of chemists in regard to limited companies, and the grievance may be remedied to some extent in the Government Bill (p. 341).



English News

The Editor is obliged to correspondents who send local newspapers containing items of interest to the trade. He will be further obliged if such paragraphs be marked in all cases.

The Burroughs Memorial at Dartford.

The committee appointed to carry out the memorial to the late Mr. Burroughs at Dartford (Kent) report that 725l. 8s. 10d. has been received, donations of 100l. each having been given by Mr. H. S. Wellcome, Mr. E. Hesketh, C.C., Lieut. Col. C. N. Kidd, and the proprietors of the *Daily Telegraph*, while the collecting cards realised 136l. 0s. 10d. Of the amount collected 713l. 18s. 4d. has been handed to the Livingstone Cottage Hospital committee for the purpose of clearing off the outstanding debt, connecting in some definite manner Mr. Burroughs's name with the title, and naming the men's ward "The Burroughs Ward." Mrs. Burroughs has intimated her intention of erecting in the hospital a life-sized marble medallion of her late husband, modelled by Mr. F. J. Williamson, the Queen's sculptor. In thanking the subscribers the committee state that they have been enabled to perpetuate the memory of one whose kind and unselfish life will always be an inspiration to those who knew him.

A Prescribing Oilman.

On February 29, at Hammersmith, Mr. Luxmore Drew held an inquest concerning the death of a ten-weeks-old child, named Marrys, the son of a laundryman. The evidence of the mother showed that the child had been poorly for some days prior to death. She gave it some cough-syrup which she purchased at a neighbouring oil-shop. The Coroner: Do you mean to say that you purchased cough-syrup at a common oil-shop? Witness: Yes; the man told me it had done his children good. The Coroner: What was it called? Witness: It was labelled Cough-syrup. The Coroner: You have placed the life of your child in the hands of an oilman. Witness said she had given the child the same syrup before, and had found it satisfactory. The life of the child had been insured only five weeks prior to death. Dr. Waddel said death was due to convulsions brought about by improper feeding, and was not due to the syrup, which was perfectly harmless, containing as it did only aniseed and syrup. The jury found a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

Assault on a Chemist.

At the Hanley (Borough) Police Court on Saturday last, Thomas Law, a tramp, was charged with vagrancy, and also with having assaulted Walter Hartle, chemist and druggist, Shelton. About 7.15 on Friday evening the prisoner went to the shop of the prosecutor and asked for alms. Mr. Hartle refused to comply with his request, and the prisoner declined to go. When threatened with the police the prisoner left the shop, but returned, and when ordered to leave he struck the prosecutor in the face. He was sent to gaol for one month.

Cheating the Doctors.

Dr. Westcott held an inquiry on February 27, at Bethnal Green Vestry Hall, respecting the death of Arthur H. J. Ault, aged 20 months, the son of a labourer. The mother deposed that the child had been suffering from a cold for a week, so she procured some cough mixture. The Coroner: Where did you get it? Witness: From a chemist's in Bishop's Road. The Coroner: Did you take a prescription to him? Witness: No; I told him the child had a cough, and he told me to give him the mixture three times a day—a spoonful. The Coroner: Do you know that is not lawful? A chemist is supposed to make up prescriptions you take him, and not to prescribe. That's what a doctor gets his diploma for. Chemists are cheating the doctors when they prescribe, and they should not do it. You tempted the chemist to break

the law. Other evidence showed that the child died suddenly on the Tuesday. Dr. Paul R. Plews, of Bishop's Road, stated that death was due to convulsions from broncho-pneumonia. The Jury returned a verdict of natural death.

Jersey News.

The stock-in-trade and household furniture of Mr. H. C. l'A. Brodhurst, late of the Halkett Drug-stores, St. Helier, Jersey, were last week partially disposed of by auction, the remainder being postponed for a later day. The total proceeds were expected to amount to some 120l., and this sum will be only about sufficient to pay the preferential claims and costs, leaving nothing for ordinary creditors.

Last week the States or Legislative Assembly of Jersey considered a proposal to grant honoraria to doctors summoned to give expert evidence before the Courts of the island. The Bill had been introduced into the Chamber at the request of the Jersey Medical Council. It was strongly opposed and rejected by a large majority. At its sitting of February 27 one of the Deputies of St. Helier—Dr. W. Duret-Aubin—introduced a Bill designed to allow only duly-qualified chemists to practise in the island, though present members of the trade would be permitted by the Royal Court to obtain the necessary permit without the presentation of the diplomas which would be required from new comers. The author proposes, moreover, that only chemists may sell poisons, and that under clearly-defined conditions. The Bill, it is understood, is practically an application of the Pharmacy Act of Great Britain. It will shortly be printed.

Vitriol Accident in a Chemist's Shop.

On February 29 a boy named William Stanmore, aged 13 years, in the employ of Mr. W. Mingot Tucker, chemist, of Fore Street, Kingsbridge, was seriously burnt by oil of vitriol. He was carrying a half-gallon bottle of oil of vitriol from the shop to the cellar at the back, and, looking backwards, he ran against a wall. The bottle was smashed and the contents went over the boy. A neighbour went to his assistance and placed him under a pump which was close by and drenched him with water. A doctor was sent for, and found that both the lad's eyes were seriously burnt and both wrists scorched. The lad is now progressing favourably. In assisting him Mr. Tucker himself burnt his wrist rather badly.

Disinfectants for Islington.

The Sanitas Company (Limited), Messrs. Dussek, and Messrs. A. Granville & Co. have obtained the contract for the supply of disinfectants, sulphur-candles, &c., to the Islington Vestry for the ensuing year.

Store-prices.

The Army and Navy Stores announce the following reductions (since September):—Coutts's acetic acid, to 1s. 6d. per bottle; Barber's crimson marking-ink, to 7½d. per bottle; Beecham's pills, to 9d.; Valentine's meat-juice, to 2s. 9d.; Burgess's lion ointment, to 2s. 2d.; liquor carnis (Caffyn's), to 1s. 6d.; malto-carnis (Caffyn's), to 1s. 6d.; Cockle's pills, to 9d.; Condry's fluid, to 9½d.; Du Barry's revalenta food, to 11s.; Sanitas disinfecting fluid and powder, to 9½d. per bottle and tin; Horsford's acid phosphates, to 2s.; maltex lozenges, to 10d. per bottle; Oppenheimer's cream of malt, to 1s. 8d.; Williams's pink pills, to 2s. 1d.; Rooke's Oriental pills, to 10½d.; Squire's kasak, to 2s.; spongio-piline, to 12s. 6d. and 1s. 9d. per yard and piece, respectively; vaseline (camphorated and carbolated), to 8d.; white wax (pure), to 2s. 8d.; Benbow's dog-mixture, to 4s. 2d.; Spratt's kennel medicine-chest, to 22s.

Exeter Workhouse Dispensing.

The Exeter Guardians, at their weekly meeting on March 3 resolved, on the recommendation of a committee, that the dispensing at the City Workhouse, in which the medical officer had hitherto been assisted by the male nurse, who is leaving for another appointment, shall in future be done outside the workhouse, and not by the nurses, when assistance is required. The remuneration to the dispenser had not yet been decided upon, but the committee stated that they were in a position to name a person who would do the duties "at a very trifling cost."

Disinfectants for St. Luke's.

At the meeting of the St. Luke's (Middlesex) Vestry, on March 3, the Public Health Committee reported on the tenders sent in for the supply of disinfectants for the parish for the year commencing March 25. There were sixteen tenders, and the committee recommended that that of Messrs. Adcock, Easton & Co. of Charteris Works, Finsbury Park, be accepted, their prices being:—Commercial liquid carbolic acid, $11\frac{1}{2}d.$ per gallon; carbolic powder, $4s.$ per cwt.; and carbolic powder, per gross of 1-lb. packets, $9s.$ Mr. Benney asked why this tender had been recommended, seeing that it was not the lowest? Mr. Tasker (Chairman of the committee) said that Messrs. Adcock, Easton & Co. had supplied them well in the past. The figures did not show any great difference. The Chairman: What we have to consider is what we use most of. We use more carbolic acid than packet powder. The recommendation of the committee was adopted. The other contractors and their prices were as follows:—Lawes' Chemical Manure Company (Lim.), 59 Mark Lane, E.C., commercial liquid carbolic acid, $1s. 5d.$ per gallon; carbolic powder, $6s. 3d.$ per cwt.; carbolic powder, $1l. 10s.$ per gross of 1-lb. packets; G. Mayor & Co., Love Lane, Southwark, S.E., $1s. 2d.$, $3s. 9d.$, and $9s.$; Drysdale & Co., 16 Creechurch Lane, E.C., $1s. 2d.$ and $8s.$ (No. 3 not quoted); Whalley's Sanitary Fluid Company (Limited), 56 and 57 Aldermanbury, E.C., $1s. 2d.$, $3s. 10d.$, and $10s.$; Adams, Webster & Co. (Limited), Manor Chemical-works, Hackney, N.E., $1s.$, $3s. 9d.$, $8s. 6d.$; Forbes, Abbott & Leonard, Ordnance Wharf, East Greenwich, S.E., $1s. 4d.$, $4s. 9d.$, and $10s.$; Fletcher Brothers & Co., Grimsby, $1s. 1\frac{1}{2}d.$ and $4s.$ (No. 3 not quoted); Red Cross Chemical Company, 46 Naylor's Row, Hull, $1s. 6\frac{1}{2}d.$, $5s. 9d.$, and $15s.$; Tuson's Disinfectant Company (Limited), Crown Wharf, Dace Road, Old Ford, E. (No. 1 not quoted), No. 2, $6s.$, No. 3, $12s.$; the Sanitas Company (Limited), Letchford Buildings, Bethnal Green, E., $1s. 2d.$, $3s. 9d.$, $8s.$; W. A. Hope & Sons, Oak Lane Works, Limehouse, E., $1s.$, $4s.$ and $9s.$; A. Granville & Co., 102 High Street, Battersea, $1s. 1d.$, $4s.$, and $7s.$; the Kilgerm Company (Limited), Cleckheaton, Yorkshire, $1s. 2d.$, $4s. 6d.$, and $14s.$; McDougal Brothers, 10 Mark Lane, E.C., $1s. 4d.$, $5s. 6d.$, and $9s. 6d.$; A. Andoire & Co., Lombard Road, Battersea, S.W., $1s. 3d.$, $4s. 6d.$, and $9s.$ The Surveyor (Mr. Meaby) was authorised to obtain a suitable iron receptacle for the storage of carbolic powder at the mortuary.

Sheffield College of Pharmacy.

On February 27 the students of the Sheffield College of Pharmacy, accompanied by one of the principals, went for their second outing this term. Taking train to Totley, they walked across the moors to Fox House, passing over Totley Tunnel (the second longest in England), walking thence to Hathersage (the burial-place of Little John, of Robin Hood fame), where a substantial tea was had at the Station Hotel. The return journey was made by train.

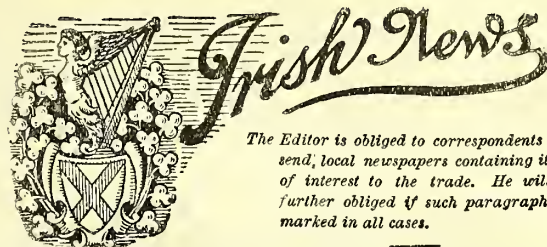
Death of a Centenarian "Pill-doctor."

"Doctor" Gilbert, a well-known travelling "pill-doctor" and herbalist in the Western counties, died in Bridport Workhouse on March 2, in his 104th year, from an apoplectic seizure. It is believed that the deceased was a native of Wincanton, and was married at Totnes. He has travelled through the South-West of England ever since he was 20 years old, and has covered remarkable distances on foot. His uncle was the late Dr. Gilbert, author of the "History of Cornwall."

Not Suited for Pharmacy.

A dairy company's horse ran away last Friday, and having first smashed the cart to which it was harnessed, but retaining the shafts, made for Mr. Wride's chemist's shop in East Street, Southampton. Having smashed a few windows and glass cases, the animal seemed contented, and consented to return to the dairy business.

THE JENNER CENTENARY.—The centenary of Jenner's birth will occur on May 14 next, and on that occasion the Russian Hygienic Society propose to publish a treatise on Jenner's work in the discovery of vaccination, as well as to hold an exhibition of objects connected with vaccination. A prize of 1,000*r.* and a gold medal are to be awarded to the author of the best treatise. Competitors may write their treatise in English, French, German, or Russian.



Pharmaceutical Chemists' and Apothecaries' Assistants' Association of Ireland.

At a general meeting of this Association, held on February 28, Mr. H. Hunt, L.P.S.I., in the chair, a paper was read by Mr. H. Harris on "Coca," in which the author gave a lengthy history of the drug, with details of its uses. After the paper had been read and discussed it was announced that the inaugural meeting of the Association in the Society's rooms, Lower Mount Street, was fixed to be held on March 13, when Dr. Ninian Falkner would deliver a lecture on "The History of Pharmacy."

Doctors and Drug-contracts.

At the Athy Workhouse last week an investigation was held by the Local Government Board into irregularities alleged by the Local Government Board auditor, Mr. Drury, in procuring drugs and medicines for the Union. The irregularities alleged consisted in the neglect of the Clerk to examine the requisitions for medicines sent in by the medical officers; supplying medicines on the verbal order of the medical officer and not on a requisition form; also that much of the medicines used in the Workhouse Infirmary and some of the dispensaries were not on the list authorised by the Local Government Board; and that the contractor for drugs supplied articles which the contractor for surgical instruments and appliances should have supplied. The Clerk stated that during all the years he was connected with the institution he never examined the requisition forms for medicine, but relied on the medical officers only ordering what was necessary. It was the custom for years to give the medical requisites to the drug-contractor, and surgical requisites to the contractor for surgical instruments. Dr. O'Neill and Dr. Darby stated it would be impossible for them to properly treat patients if they were confined to the list of medicines prescribed by the Local Government Board. Dr. Stafford, the Inspector, will report on the case in the course of a week or two.

Personal.

Mr. J. F. Corcoran is about to open a drug concern in Augier Street, Dublin.

Mr. J. Edgar Connor, pharmaceutical chemist, Newry, has been elected on the general committee of the Newry Hospital.

The expenses incurred by Sir James Haslett, chemist and druggist, Belfast, in successfully contesting the Parliamentary representation of the city are returned at 518*l.*

A New Irish Industry.

At the annual meeting in Dublin last week of the Irish Industrial League, the Earl of Mayo referred in eulogistic terms to the newly-opened paint-and-colour mill of Messrs. Boileau & Boyd, druggists, Bride Street. He thought the manufacture of paints would make an excellent subject for a lecture. Many persons who procured their paints from England were not aware that paint was made in Ireland.

Linseed Meal.

In the Belfast Summons Court on Tuesday last, Thomas May, druggist and grocer, 227 York Street, and Arthur Bright, assistant, were prosecuted, under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, for having sold adulterated linseed meal. The Inspector said he went into the shop of Mr. May and asked for 1 lb. of linseed meal. The assistant went to a drawer and lifted out some crushed flaxseed. He said that was not the sort of linseed meal he wanted, and the assistant replied that was all the linseed meal he had. Witness asked

him if he had not linseed-cake meal. Bright said he had, and went to a drawer and got a 1-lb. package of linseed-cake meal. Professor Hooges, the analyst, certified in 100 parts there was at least 30 per cent. of farinaceous matter added as an adulterant. For the defence it was contended that the linseed cake was not a drug, but the Magistrates over-ruled this defence and imposed a penalty of 3*l*.



Scotch News

The Editor is obliged to correspondents who send local newspapers containing items of interest to the trade. He will be further obliged if such paragraphs be marked in all cases.

A Druggist's Supper.

The employés of the Scottish Drug Company (Limited) had their annual supper at the Melville Hotel, Edinburgh, on February 26. Mr. Corstorphine, the managing director, occupied the chair, and Mr. Thwaites was croupier. A long and pleasant evening was spent, and songs and speeches filled in the time.

Aberdeen Assistants' and Apprentices' Association.

The members of this Association met at the Royal Hotel on Wednesday evening, February 26, and under the chairmanship of Mr. A. L. Strachan, of Messrs. Davidson & Kay, enjoyed first a concert, then a tea, and finally a ball. All passed off very merrily, and cordial thanks were voted to the committee for organising the gathering, and especially to Mr. A. P. Wallace, who had been indefatigable.

A London Branch.

Messrs. Duncan, Flockhart & Co., of Edinburgh, who have for some years past been gradually extending their operations southwards, have now arranged to open a branch house at 38 Snow Hill, London. The branch will be under the charge of Mr. A. Proctor Atkinson, their town traveller in Edinburgh, who will be succeeded by Mr. A. K. Baxter.

Chlorine-manufactory for Glasgow.

It is proposed to erect in Glasgow large works for the manufacture of chlorine by the new Scott-Vogt process, by which it is claimed that about 27 cwt. of bleaching-powder can be produced from a ton of salt against 18 cwt. by other processes. M. Adolph Vogt, chemical engineer, and Mr. A. Ross Scott, manager of the Carntyne Chemical-works, Glasgow, are the joint inventors of the process, which takes advantage of the reaction between nitric acid and hydrochloric acid, and by ingeniously constructed plant the two gaseous acids are mixed in a specially designed apparatus, through which a constant stream of sulphuric acid flows. The latter absorbs all the water, and is afterwards concentrated to be used over again. Special plant, hitherto unknown in this country, has been erected for the recovery of the nitric acid used.

The Dispensing of Parish Medicines by Qualified Chemists.

At the monthly meeting of Glasgow City Parish Council held on March 3, it was reported that at the last meeting of the Medical Committee Dr. McLaughlin tabled the following notice of motion for next meeting:—"That the resolution come to at this committee on June 20 last, as to medicines being dispensed by qualified chemists only, and which was approved at the meeting of the Council on July 2 last, be rescinded."

Kinninmont Prize, 1896.

Intending competitors for this prize are reminded that the examination will be held in May or June, and that their names should be sent to the Secretary, Mr. W. L. Currie, Downhill, Glasgow, before the end of April. All information in connection with the prize can be had from him. The

subjects of examination will be botany and magnetism and electricity. Assistants or apprentices in the neighbouring counties, or whose apprenticeships there expired recently, are eligible.

Peroxide of Hydrogen as an Antiseptic.

At the meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, on Monday night, Mr. C. A. Fawcett read a communication in which he advocated the use of peroxide of hydrogen as an antiseptic, and pointed out that its use would become more general if practitioners used a weak instead of a strong solution, as the latter gave rise to great irritation of the skin.

Dundee News.

Mr. Robert Duffton, of Monifieth, is to open a pharmacy in the new buildings near the post-office in Carnoustie, as soon as the necessary fittings can be put in.

Mr. James Anderson, of the Dundee Drug-stores, entertained his employés and friends to dinner and a dance, in Whyte's Rooms, Commercial Street, on Wednesday, February 26. The company numbered eighty, and included several doctors and brother Chips of the town.

French News.

THE French Association for the Advancement of Sciences will hold its twenty-fifth session this year at Tunis, commencing on April 1, under the presidency of M. Paul Dislère, Councillor of State. The local committee will organise excursions in various parts of the Regency, one of which will extend to Tripoli and Malta.

THE PREPARATION OF SERUMS.—A Paris journalist has interviewed M. Duclaux, the successor of M. Pasteur at the Rue Dutot Institute with a view to learning whether the public health has nothing to fear from the preparation by private industry of the various therapeutic serums. M. Duclaux replied by producing for the pressman's edification the text of the law passed last year (reproduced in the *C. & D.* of March 16, 1895), which prescribes a rigorous inspection of all the establishments where the serums are prepared. There are at present eight such establishments, of which two are in Paris and one each in Lille, Havre, Nancy, Lyons, Grenoble and Bordeaux. Their licence may be revoked at any time if need be.

RADAN'S MICROBE KILLER.—For more than a year past a shop has been opened on the Boulevard Poissonnière, Paris, for the sale of a specific called the "Radan Microbe-killer." The walls of the premises were covered with photographs of microbes, while numerous testimonials were also shown, testifying to the efficacy of the remedy. Prospectuses were distributed in profusion, and the medicine was sold or given away, to all comers without even the semblance of a consultation or a doctor's prescription. Lately the Paris School of Pharmacy, the Syndical Chamber of Pharmacists of the Seine, together with the Superior Council of Hygiene, took the matter in hand. It transpired that the "Microbe-killer" was prepared by two Englishmen, non-pharmacists, named Hirschfield and Bryant, who carried on their business under the cover of the diplomas of two French pharmacists. Legal proceedings were taken under the pharmacy laws, with the result that they were condemned to pay a fine of 500*fr.* (20*l.*) each, together with, collectively, 1,000*fr.* (40*l.*) damages to the Syndical Chamber of Pharmacists of the Seine, besides bearing the expense of advertising the judgment in two newspapers, and the shop was ordered to be closed under penalty of further fines. During the hearing of the case it was proved, as the result of chemical analysis, that the microbe-killer was a solution in water of sulphuric and sulphurous acids. It seems that the two Englishmen had almost counted prosecution by their method of carrying on business. Occasionally they took the precaution to have their specific delivered to their customers accompanied by an invoice bearing a pharmacist's name, but more frequently they retailed it in the shop to all comers. It also transpired that they had at times given advice as to the method for using the remedy, which brought them under the charge of illegal practice of medicine. They had a laboratory, Rue Marcadet, Paris, and a contract with the pharmacists to pay them 3,000*fr.* (120*l.*) per annum each for the use of the premises.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

COUNCIL MEETING.

THERE was once more a large attendance at the meeting of the Pharmaceutical Council, and when Mr. Carteighe commenced the business at 11.20 on Wednesday morning all the members were present, excepting Messrs. Cross and Johnston. The whole of the business except in respect to two matters was of a routine character. In that expression we must include the low condition of the exchequer as evidenced by the financial report. On Wednesday the Council found itself with 244*l.* in hand and bills amounting to 1,351*l.* waiting to be paid. Mr. Storrar succeeded in regard to this in bringing the statement from the Chair that the Society's greatest source of revenue is examination fees, subscriptions now being secondary. Another financial matter showed the cheapness of money, as the President put it. The late Mr. T. H. Hills gave the Society a sum of money for investment, the interest being devoted to providing prizes of books to the best men of the year. The revenue is now diminished so much that it is proposed not to give books to the Council medallists; but it is not at all likely that this will diminish the attraction for Major men, every one of whom entering for the competition in July no doubt expects to get the blue ribbon—the Pereira medal, which will still carry its bundle of books. The President submitted a motion for the appointment of a sub-committee to watch over legislation. His statement was an interesting one. He, along with the Presidents of other professional bodies, has had a conference with Mr. Ritchie, the President of the Board of Trade, regarding the Limited Companies Bill promised in the Queen's Speech, and the result of that conference is that Mr. Ritchie now thoroughly appreciates the position of the drug-trade, and the hardship which it suffers through limited companies trading as chemists and druggists. Mr. Carteighe was careful to emphasise that, even though legislation is successful, it cannot entirely ameliorate the condition brought about by competition, for it will only protect titles and restrict the sale of poisons to the proper persons. He referred also in neutral terms to the Early Closing Bill, and other matters likely to be brought before the House of Commons, and thereupon followed a brisk discussion, chiefly upon Sir John Lubbock's Bill. It appeared from this that the Council is fairly divided upon the measure. The provincial members who spoke, with two exceptions, maintained that it would do good, while all the metropolitan members who spoke bitterly deplored the introduction of the Bill as a piece of grandmotherly legislation. The feature of the debate was an exceedingly spirited speech by Mr. John Harrison, Vice-President of the Society, who has few opportunities nowadays of exhibiting his admirable debating powers, but upon this occasion he made the whole Council laugh at the manner in which he handled his colleague the treasurer.

The debate had scarcely closed when Mr. G. F. Schacht quietly left the room, and there were not more than three persons present who knew that that was the last time they would see Mr. Schacht as a member of the Council; for, immediately after, the President, in a few ominous sentences, introduced a letter he had received from the Clifton member intimating that he was to retire. This seemed to impart a doleful aspect to the rest of the Council. When they heard the intimation the members seemed painfully oppressed, and those of them who spoke laboured under

deep feelings of regret for Mr. Schacht's resignation. Perhaps, however, it may be said, without detracting in the least from their words of encomium, that the unusual and unprecedented resolution passed on Wednesday is the greatest honour ever conferred upon a British pharmacist.

After the minutes had been approved the PRESIDENT intimated that he had received a cheque representing the Burroughs Memorial Fund, which would be invested in a week or so, and the trust-deed formally signed. The list of elections was then read by the President, and, struck with the length of it, Mr. MARTINDALE remarked, "It is a good list."

FINANCE REPORT.

The following are the principal items read out by the SECRETARY:—

General Fund—

			£	s.	d.
Balance January 31 .. ..	..	..	1,159	10	2
Receipts in February .. ..	..	..	1,450	3	4
			2,609	13	6
Paid in February .. ..	..	..	2,364	16	1
			244	17	5
Sum now required to meet immediate liabilities .. ..	..	..	1,351	14	6

Benevolent Fund—

Adverse balance January 31 .. ..	..	..	1	13	8
Receipts in February .. ..	..	..	225	1	4
			223	7	8
Paid in February .. ..	..	..	50	0	0
			173	7	8

The donation account stood as it was last month, and since then 2*l.* 2*s.* had been added to the Orphan Fund. The principal items of immediate expenditure from the General Fund were 777*l.* for the *Journal* and 180*l.* 9*s.* for law costs. The annual statement from the North British Branch had been received.

The PRESIDENT said that it is at this time that the Society receives its largest income from subscribers, and as to the Benevolent Fund, they expected to get good sums from the local secretaries during March and April, and he considered it satisfactory that they could use all they got. (Hear, hear.) Referring to the North British Branch, he explained that the Executive were keeping down the payments in respect to cleaning and the like as low as they could, and the chief expenditure during the year had been for furniture and apparatus for the examinations.

Mr. STORRAR asked if the 180*l.* for law-costs was a balance against the Society.

The PRESIDENT: No; only a portion. The account was paid last month.

Mr. STORRAR: Is it the case that the subscriptions yield the largest part of our income? I think the examinations bring us more.

The PRESIDENT: Certainly.

Mr. STORRAR: Then our income comes in steadily during the year?

The PRESIDENT: Yes; that is what I should have said.

The report was then adopted.

RESTORATIONS TO THE REGISTER.

The following persons had their names restored to the register on payment of the usual fee of 1*l.* 1*s.*:—J. Walker Howard, 23 King's Road, Leeds; David S. Reid, Anstruther, N.B.; Harry Smith, 146 High Street, Evesham; Robert W. Summers, 99 Mile End Road, E.

BENEVOLENT FUND.

The committee recommended two grants, one of 10*l.* and another of 5*l.* Two other cases were considered, one being deferred, and the other did not come within the regulations.

Mr. BOTTLE, who had presided at the committee meeting, moved the adoption of the report. He said that the amount voted was the minimum in his experience, which was a gratifying fact, and he hoped and believed that this was an indication of better times. Two other matters came before the committee. One of them related to corresponding

members of the Society. A few years ago they had appointed a number of gentlemen to that honour, mainly on account of *kudos*, but some time since the Secretary had written to one of them in Sydney to ask him to administer relief to the widow of a chemist who lived there. This the corresponding member had done, but he had not stopped there, for he now wrote that he was endeavouring to find a home for her as a housekeeper. The next case to which he referred was that of the orphan daughter of a chemist and druggist who was in business at Hoddesdon. She was over the age which by by-law was considered to be that of orphan children, and they could not in consequence give her relief. But he thought they might assist her otherwise. Miss Colston suffered from gastric ulcer, and was an applicant for outdoor relief from the British Home for Incurables at Streatham, and he asked the Council or any connected with the trade who had influence or votes for the home to assist Miss Coulson's election.*

The report was adopted.

BOOK PRIZES.

The only item not of a routine character in the library, &c., report was a recommendation to stop the book prizes given from the Hills Fund to the Council medallists in the annual competition amongst pharmaceutical chemists. The PRESIDENT explained that the interest on the investments had been decreasing for some years, and now since the accumulations had been used up the above recommendation was proposed. He did not think it would keep any men back, and it would make a substantial and desirable difference between the Pereira and silver medallists.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The Library, &c., Committee was entrusted with the drafting of the annual report, and it was agreed to hold the annual meeting on Wednesday, May 20, at 12 o'clock.

Fifteen pounds each was voted to the Bell scholars.

PARLIAMENTARY MATTERS.

The report of the Law and Parliamentary Committee referred to a discussion therein upon the legislation of the Session, and in view of matters coming forward of interest to pharmacy the committee recommended that a sub-committee, consisting of the President, Vice-President, and Messrs. Allen, Hills, Martindale, Savory, and Warren, should be appointed to watch the proceedings in the House and interview members.

The PRESIDENT said that when he first came on the Council there was a committee of this kind, whose business was to interview members having charge of Bills and generally to assist the President in looking after legislation. They would have noticed in the Speech from the Throne reference to a Bill dealing with limited liability companies. This was one of the matters which the committee would have to watch. Although the Bill had not been introduced, he knew that such a one, or a modification of Lord Davey's Bill, would be introduced. They might recollect that he attended the committee of inquiry on this subject, and gave evidence. Since then, in association with the presidents of other bodies—*i.e.*, those related to dentistry, veterinary surgery, and medicine—a conference had been arranged, and they considered what they could do in a combined way to move the President of the Board of Trade. They had had an interview with Mr. Ritchie, and this he could say—that whether their views were adopted or not, Mr. Ritchie fully understood the question. He could not state what the conference amounted to, for it had been a private one, but he could say this much—that they were in active touch with the Board of Trade, and they hoped in a few days to have a communication telling them whether the Board would accept their proposals or whether they would have to go to the Privy Council. It would be desirable, in view of these matters, to have the whole of the metropolitan members available for beating up support. Continuing, in reference to the company business, he said that the great difficulty in dealing with that matter was the enormous financial interests involved, and there was a certain difficulty also in getting the Board of Trade to

introduce anything into their measure touching professional or semi-professional matters. They would understand that they could always bring in a private measure, but it was much more likely that a Government Bill would get through. So they had appealed strongly to Mr. Ritchie, and given him evidence to show that the position in which dentistry, pharmacy, &c., are placed by the present limited company law is such as to require his earnest consideration. If they had been successful in that, he would still warn the trade that the Bill would not interfere with the general distribution of goods by limited companies: it would only protect them in regard to titles and poisons. Limited companies are traders in such a wide sense of the term that whatever measure of success might follow their present efforts the trade must bear in mind that competition in things not in the domain of poisons would probably remain. He was comforted, however, by the reflection that any Bill to amend the Companies Act, even though confined to financial matters, would be of considerable benefit to chemists and druggists. The next measure which interested them was the Early Closing Bill. Their brethren were divided in opinion as to how that should be treated. The Bill included chemists very much on the lines which he had suggested some years ago. Some of them would rather that pharmacy had not been touched—(hear, hear)—but others were of a different opinion, and in view of that it was impossible for the sub-committee to do anything except see that the public safety was conserved, and that chemists and druggists were not harassed in doing it. The Bill dealt with grown-up people. They could not overlook the fact that the present tendency was to apply the law as to factories and women and children to the retail trade. The other matters to which the committee would attend were the Food-products and Petroleum Commissions.

Mr. STORRAR understood that the cause of the delay in producing a Pharmacy Bill was this proceeding about companies. As there was a feeling in the country that something should be done, perhaps the President would refer to the point in his reply.

Mr. MARTINDALE pointed out that the tendency of big stores was to push their trade as widely as possible, and as the aim of the Pharmacy Act, so far as poisons are concerned, is to restrict the sale, or keep it under close watch, that object was best secured by having qualified chemists as the vendors. Big stores helped to defeat the object, and he hoped they would be brought to the same footing as chemists. He knew as a fact that the distribution of chloral is to a considerable extent effected by stores.

Mr. HAMPSON (Treasurer) regretted that the committee thought that Sir John Lubbock's Bill should not be opposed. Its object was interference with the trade, and his fellow members might have observed that its promoters were careful not to meddle with the sale of a twist of tobacco, or the Sunday morning newspaper, or with the drink-seller. He objected to any legislation of this kind, and thought it an unsatisfactory position for the Council to hold their hands. He would have liked the committee to take out the thorns of the measure, although he did not think they could do much, for whatever Government was in power there was the same tendency to promote State interference. For many years he had thought that Englishmen could look after themselves, but now they seemed content to allow the State to say what time they should open their business and what time they would shut it, and he supposed they were coming to a time when they would allow the State to say what prices they should charge.

Mr. ATKINS said it was not too late for the peculiar position of the drug-trade to be urged upon the House of Commons. He was glad that the President had said what he had in regard to the company matter, and to hear that Mr. Ritchie recognised their position. He agreed with the President that they should not expect much relief from the excessive and unfair competition—unfair because of the peculiar conditions in which they entered the trade.

Mr. NEWSHOLME, speaking in regard to the Early Closing Bill, said that in the country there was a growing tendency to secure a half-holiday and earlier closing, and from experience he felt that without legislation they could not get very far. The saving clause in the Bill would protect their interests. He felt strongly that chemists and druggists

* Votes for Miss Coulson may be sent to Mr. Richard Bremridge, 17 Bloomsbury Square, W.O., or to the Editor of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.

could carry on their business in much less time than was now the rule, and the Bill would help them in that.

Mr. SOUTHALL agreed with Mr. Newsholme. They did want a little grandmotherly legislation; women and children had been taken care of, and now some protection for men was wanted. It was all very well for the Treasurer to be indignant, but nobody could do what he liked: the Pharmaceutical Society could not do what it liked. They were not unanimous, and that was the reason why they wanted legislation in this matter. It was dreadful to see how late chemists' shops were kept open in suburbs.

Mr. MARTIN agreed with the Treasurer, and thought this Bill pure grandmotherly legislation. Apart from that, he considered it would soon be unworkable if it passed. It would be impossible to define what "medicine" meant. If a customer came in after hours with a prescription, and wanted eau de Cologne for the patient, they could not sell that, although they might sell 1*d.* worth of pills. As to the action of the Council, he said that the general public and traders could take care of themselves, but they were there to protect the interests of pharmacists, and he was sorry that they were not to go more direct for the measure.

The VICE-PRESIDENT (Mr. John Harrison) said that the one crumb of comfort in the discussion was what the President had said regarding the Government department understanding their grievances. This was the first time that they admitted that there were such defects in the legislation regarding pharmacy and other callings as to need parliamentary interference. Mr. Martin in his speech was wearing the robe of the prophet, and he would not take it from him, for he was quite content to wait for what Mr. Ritchie was going to do, as he had infinite confidence in his business ability. He had listened with a great amount of interest to the sermonette by the Treasurer. (Laughter.) He had heard nothing finer in protection, nor had he ever gathered before that the growth of manhood (whatever that might be) belonged to the State. Considering the state of things that exists in the country to-day, there are worse tyrannies than the tyranny of the law. He preferred the latter to the tyranny of some avaricious person whose greed for the last penny destroyed the unanimity of a neighbourhood. He thought that in the matter of closing they should work along the lines of local option. ("Oh, oh!" and "It is.") Well, that showed that though Sir John Lubbock and he did not agree on everything, they did on this. He hoped also that they would see to it that medicines would be got night and day, otherwise doctors would open shops in a few years, and sell anything because they were not under the law.

Mr. HAMPSON: Before the Vice-President sits down I would like him to define sermonette. (Laughter.)

The VICE-PRESIDENT: He does not need it, but if the dictionary definition does not satisfy Mr. Hampson I would recommend him, when his speech is printed, to read it, for it is a good example of the sermonette.

Mr. ALLEN did not favour the Early Closing Bill, and suggested that Sir John Lubbock should add a clause saying that there should be no stomach-ache, toothache, and the like after business hours.

Mr. HILLS agreed with the President that chemists could not expect much from the Companies Act. Competition was now so severe, both outside and inside the trade (men were starting and using the title "drug-stores" in preference to the one they should have an affection for) that they could not expect much. He was with the Treasurer in regard to early closing, and hated this sort of grandmotherly legislation for grown men, both as a citizen and as a pharmacist.

Mr. GOSTLING also agreed with the Treasurer.

The PRESIDENT, in closing the discussion, said the reason for delaying the Pharmacy Bill was that with Government support in regard to companies they would have a great advantage.

The appointment of the sub-committee was then agreed to.

NEW SECRETARIES.

Mr. A. G. Wing, of Woolwich, was appointed Divisional Secretary for that district, in place of Mr. Carter, retired.

Mr. D. L. Lewis, Broadway, Ealing, was appointed Local Secretary for his district in succession to Mr. Curtis, who has retired in consequence of ill-health.

RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. Keen, the Secretary of the Bristol Association, sent a

resolution supporting the Council in regard to the company matter.

Mr. J. A. Russell, Glasgow, sent a resolution from the local Association there calling upon the Council to co-operate with the General Medical Council for the discouragement of the prescribing of proprietary medicines, and to draw up a formulary of remedies recently popularised.

The PRESIDENT said the latter resolution contained important points of principle, and on his motion it was referred to the Library, &c., Committee.

RETIREMENT OF MR. SCHACHT.

The PRESIDENT said that during the past forty-eight hours he had had a letter in his possession which it was now his duty to read to the Council. It was from one of the oldest and most respected members, who desired to retire from the Council. But before he consented to read the letter he had used every argument in his power to persuade the gentleman to remain. However, he had failed, and he was quite certain this was final. He now proceeded to read the letter. This was done, when it transpired that it was written by Mr. G. F. Schacht, who stated that, as he has now retired from business, and as he now retires from the Council by rotation, he did not propose to seek re-election. The President, continuing, said that it was not customary to make any resolution at this time upon such a matter, but, owing to the exceptional circumstances of the case, he desired to submit the following resolution:—

This Council deeply regrets the proposed retirement of Mr. G. F. Schacht, and desires to give expression to its high appreciation of the valuable services he has rendered in every department of pharmaceutical work. As a member of the Board of Examiners, as a member of Council for twenty-five years, and as Vice-President of the Society for three terms, he has devoted the highest powers of a vigorous and well-endowed mind to the furtherance of the best interests of pharmacy. The unwearied efforts of Mr. Schacht in the cause of pharmaceutical education will be always gratefully remembered by every member and associate of the Society.

Continuing, the President said that no language could very well put in sufficiently loving form the regard one felt for Mr. Schacht. He was one of the earliest examined men of the Society, and one of the earliest students in that house. He had made good use of the education which he had received, and followed science with ardour all his life. He knew as a fact that Mr. Schacht's greatest regret in going out of London was that he was going from the centre of scientific action. He was a man of strong will and very considerable personality, gifted with great powers of observation, and when he deliberately thought out this matter of his retirement he (the President) knew that it was useless to endeavour to persuade him to other action. Mr. Schacht had been most successful and most elegant in the adaptation of scientific methods to pharmaceutical processes; of that they were well aware. The feature of all others which had always endeared him to them was his *bonhomie* and strenuous exertions to be just to others. Another characteristic of Mr. Schacht was the manner in which he recognised any mild castigation passed upon him privately. He entered into the spirit of the thing and endeavoured to benefit by it. He hoped that although Mr. Schacht had retired there would be many opportunities for him to be of value to them for many years to come. They could not forget that he was a highly respected man in his own district, and had done immense service in the promotion of true education there.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said that as a very unworthy occupant of the chair which Mr. Schacht had filled in such a distinguished manner it was his duty to second the motion. He felt that Mr. Schacht's retirement was a very great loss. He had been brought into contact with him for a great length of time, and had the opportunity of admiring many points in his character, some of them eloquently referred to by the President, and he much deplored his loss.

Mr. BOTTLE said that his own personal feeling was one of extreme regret. He had contemplated that it would be his place to retire first, for he looked upon Mr. Schacht almost as a boy. (Laughter.) He had watched for long what he and the President had done in the Conference and elsewhere for the promotion of pharmacy, and he felt that in losing Mr. Schacht they were losing a man of very great power.

Mr. ATKINS said that whatever changes they might have, he hoped Mr. Bottle's retirement would be long delayed. He could not help noticing when the first ominous sentences fell from the President that there was a vacant chair at the table, and he remarked to his neighbour, 'What does this mean?' To him, no small part of the pleasure in coming to this meeting was to be brought into contact with Mr. Schacht, and he did not know a man for whom he cherished so great a respect. Different as were their opinions sometimes, the extreme honesty of Mr. Schacht's opinions always commanded respect, for he was a man who thought out his conclusions and fearlessly expressed them. It had been said of him that he was a typical pharmacist. He was; and he (the speaker) felt that by his retirement he lost a personal friend—a true, a real friend to the Society. It was impossible for them to estimate or exaggerate the loss.

Mr. HILLS said the Council was very much poorer by the loss of Mr. Schacht, and he felt very much bereaved, for he had the greatest veneration for Mr. Schacht as a pharmacist and a man.

Messrs. HAMPSON, MARTIN, YOUNG, and GOSTLING also expressed their personal sense of regret at Mr. Schacht's retirement, and their admiration for him as a man. Mr. Martin, for example, said that Mr. Schacht had been his ideal for twenty-five years.

The motion was then put and carried, this concluding the business.

The Winter Session.

SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY.

THE metropolitan members of the Society received postcards on Monday morning intimating that the meeting for that night, at which Messrs. Cross and Bevan were to read a paper on artificial silk, was postponed.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN.

NORTH BRITISH BRANCH.

A MEETING was held in Edinburgh on Friday evening, February 28, Mr. W. L. Currie, Glasgow (Vice-Chairman), presiding. There was a good attendance. After a few introductory remarks by the CHAIRMAN, Dr. A. LOCKHART GILLESPIE, F.R.C.P.E., medical registrar in the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, read an interesting paper entitled

NOTES FROM SOME OLD EDINBURGH INFIRMARY CASE-BOOKS.

The case-books were the record of Dr. William Cullen's work in the Infirmary, and are the earliest journals of the institution. They begin on July 16, 1755, that book probably being the ward-book when Cullen went to Edinburgh; there was a second, entitled "Dr. Cullen's Women's Journal," beginning August 28, 1787; and the third was dated November 24, 1773. Having referred to the great work which Cullen did in promoting scientific medicine, Dr. Gillespie quoted from the journals, the prescriptions showing that doctors were excellent prescribers in those days, not at all like the modern practitioners, "who are nourished on theory, brought up on tabloids, and reach their prime dependent on the manufacturing chemist for the proper dosage of the drugs they wish to administer."

Mr. PETER BOA said it was one thing to read old recipes that they found in books such as they usually had, but it was more interesting to make their acquaintance and to have them presented in their application as Dr. Gillespie had done. He suggested that *vinum domesticum*, which had been referred to by the doctor, might be the generic term which would include to-me-made wine, such as gooseberry and raspberry wines.

Mr. J. R. HILL, having spoken about a recent paper by Dr. Gillespie on "Weather Conditions and Disease," said that there was in the North British Branch library a number of annotated Pharmacopœias, the writing in which might probably be Cullen's. Referring to a remark by Dr. Gillespie that angelica had been found in a garden at Holyrood, Mr. Hill said that Dr. Sibbald, one of the founders of the Edinburgh College of Physicians, had been the means of getting a physic-garden planted there, and perhaps it

Gillespie's specimen was a survival. The pills administered in Cullen's day were excessively large, and would not be swallowed now. Referring to other topics mentioned in the paper, Mr. Hill suggested that the origin of bezoar stones formed in the human stomach was the sal absinthii taken as a remedy for worms.

The CHAIRMAN, in thanking Dr. Gillespie, said he thought they, as pharmacists, would very much prefer to make up concoctions such as those in the prescriptions of bygone days than the elegant pharmaceutical preparations they were asked to dispense now. It seemed that there had been an extraordinary amount of brandy consumed in those days, and one could not say why it had been left out. (Applause.)

Dr. GILLESPIE, with reference to Mr. Boa's suggestion regarding home-made wines, said that 1755 was only ten years after Prince Charles the Pretender's time, and in those days French wines were used like water. French claret was drunk not by the bottle, but by hogsheads and casks, and very likely that would be the wine referred to. He suggested that brandy had been left out because whisky was so much better. (Laughter.)

The next paper read was on

SPT. ÆTHERIS CO. B.P.

by D. B. DOTT, and W. Inglis Clark, D.Sc. Mr. DOTT, who read the paper, stated that the B.P. formula differs very slightly from the old London Pharmacopœia one, but neither is so good as the U.S.P. method of making oil ætherum, which is more specific and detailed. The present paper was a record of experiments made with the view of getting a better formula for the British Pharmacopœia, and these we describe briefly:—

1. By acting upon 80 oz. of S.V.R. with 72 oz. of sulphuric acid, and distilling after twenty-four hours, 27 cz. of ether was obtained and 6 cz. of a watery distillate. The ether was neutralised with 6 oz. of sodium bicarbonate, and filtered: Product, 20½ oz. (a) 100 c.c. of this exposed to the air for fifteen hours gave 7.5 c.c. residue, which was mixed with 160 c.c. ether and 320 c.c. S.V.R. Sp. gr. of product 0.8167. (b) 100 c.c. of the ether mixed with the same volumes of ether and spirit gave sp. gr. 0.8184. (c) 100 c.c. of the ether exposed in cylindrical vessel fifteen hours gave 25 c.c. of residue, and on diluting with ether and spirit it did not give such a fine product as a and b, although c was a literal fulfilling of the law.

2. This experiment was the same as No. 1, but the distillate was collected in fractions, and each of the fractions was neutralised and exposed to the air. The first fraction (135°–147° C.) yielded 2 per cent. of residue, second (147°–157°) 3.1 per cent., third (157°–167°) 5.5 per cent., and the fourth (157°–167° C.) 14.6 per cent.

3. A mixture of 320 c.c. S.V.R. and 288 c.c. sulphuric acid was after twenty-four hours distilled, the distillate commencing at 134° C. and ending at 173°, but most of that distilling at the higher temperature was between 170° and 171°. The distillate amounted to 125 c.c. ethereal and 10 c.c. aqueous. Ten grammes of sodium bicarbonate sufficed to neutralise the former, and the yield thereafter was 108 c.c. This was exposed to the air, and 50 c.c. left 3.3 c.c. in fifteen hours; diluted to spt. æther. co. the sp. gr. was 0.8083; diluted before evaporation the sp. gr. was 0.8116.

From these observations the authors have come to the conclusion that evaporation of the distillate is unnecessary, and they recommended the following formula for the B.P.:—

Mix 80 fl. oz. alcohol with 72 fl. oz. sulphuric acid. After a day distil slowly with thermometer in the liquid till the temperature rises to 340° F. Then separate the liquids, rejecting the lower or aqueous distillate. The ethereal liquid is now mixed with 3 oz. water, and sufficient sodium bicarbonate to render neutral, or nearly so (about 2½ oz.). Decant the liquid, add 10 fl. oz. ether and 80 fl. oz. alcohol; mix, and filter.

Mr. DOTT also read a

NOTE ON PAPAIN.

This was mainly controversial, and recorded experiments made since the publication of Dr. Samuel Rideal's paper, in which he maintained that papain is a useful digestive agent. Mr. DOTT holds that papain compares unfavourably with pepsin, and his new experiments confirm him in this view. He has repeated Dr. Rideal's experiments, and pointed out

several directions in which these mislead—especially noting that Dr. Rideal ignored the solvent action of the menstruum upon albumen.

The two papers were discussed together. In leading off the discussion, Mr. J. R. HILL questioned if it was worth while retaining spt. æther. co. in the B.P., and, with regard to the papain paper, expressed the satisfaction of the Edinburgh School at Mr. Dott's results, because it was Edinburgh men who had always been critical about the digestive power of papain. He submitted that Dr. Rideal must bring forward much better results before they accepted his statements. At the same time, he did not deny that papain may have its own peculiar uses.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that spt. æther. co. was rarely prescribed in Glasgow. He thought papain was good in diphtheria and similar cases, and he went through a great quantity of it, for three medical men in his neighbourhood stuck to it most faithfully for diphtheritic cases.

Mr. DOTT said, in regard to the retention of spt. æther. co. in the B.P., that the American Pharmacopœia process had been adversely criticised, but when it was suggested to the Pharmacopœia Committee that it should be deleted they said it could not possibly be left out of the B.P.

Mr. BOA, speaking on the same point, said that in his own pharmacy they dispensed it fairly often. In conversation with one gentleman who prescribed it he said he got undoubtedly better effects from it than from the ordinary spirit of ether. And while he was in Ireland it appeared in almost every other prescription. He was afraid it could not be very well left out of the Pharmacopœia.

Mr. D. RAINY BROWN next read a

NOTE ON COMMERCIAL LITMUS.

In this the author dealt with the manufacture and chemistry of litmus, and described experiments which he had made with the object of showing the quality of the commercial article. Generally his conclusions amount to this—that litmus is made by a rule-of-thumb method, and in consequence it is found in the market of variable quality; thus the insoluble matter ranges from 46 to 89.8 per cent. He pointed out that the colouring constituent desired in analysis is azolitmin, and while the B.P. formula succeeds in getting this (the spirit removing erythrolein and erythrolitmin), some potassium carbonate is dissolved by the water along with the azolitmin. He therefore suggested that a solution of azolitmin should take the place of litmus.

There was no serious discussion on this paper, and the meeting concluded with the usual compliment to Mr. Currie for presiding.

CHEMISTS' ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

At the meeting held last week, Mr. R. H. JONES communicated a paper on

THE DIGESTIVE FERMENTS OF THE PANCREAS.

The paper was historical and bibliographic, but gave evidence of intimate practical acquaintance with the subject. The author showed at the outset, by the records of physiologists, that it is possible for an animal to live and increase in weight after the removal of the stomach, and this he attributed to the influence of pancreatic digestion. The juice of the pancreas contains three ferments—viz., amyllopsin, or diastasic enzyme; trypsin, or proteolytic enzyme; and steapsin, or fat splitting enzyme. It is supposed that a milk-curdling enzyme also exists in the juice; but this has not been proved. Mr. Jones then spoke of the enzymes individually. He pointed out that amyllopsin can be isolated from the pancreas by dehydrating it with alcohol, then treating with glycerine, which dissolves only the amyllopsin. If the pancreas is not dehydrated, trypsin is also dissolved by glycerine. This fact has enabled investigators to prove that the proportion of the individual enzymes varies in different animals; e.g., there is ten times more amyllopsin in the pig's pancreas than in the sheep's.

There are bodies called zymogens in the stomach and pancreas cells which may be regarded as potential enzymes, and they are soluble in water. It is supposed that there is a diastasic zymogen, but so far it has not been extracted. Yet there is the curious fact to note that after washing away all diastasic matter from the pancreas, and allowing

it to stand for some time, it again becomes active, showing that the enzyme has been created in the interval. The author discussed the action of the enzyme, pointing out that the amyllopsin carries the digestion of starch up to dextrose; but malt diastase stops at maltose. It is to the pancreas that the bulk of starch food owes its digestion, the saliva doing very little.

Trypsin was next considered. The zymogen of this is obtained from the pancreas by immersing the gland in glycerine immediately after the animal is killed. The pancreas is chopped fine and the maceration continued for a few days. The enzyme itself is insoluble in glycerine, but is soluble in water, and can be precipitated therefrom by alcohol. Roberts states that trypsin is active up to 60° C., but the author's experience is that at about 54° C its activity ceases. Trypsin is the enzyme most nearly allied to pepsin, and is more powerful than the latter in breaking down the proteid molecule, and it can carry the digestion as far as the amido-acid stage, represented by leucin and tyrosin.

Steapsin, the fat-decomposing ferment of the pancreas, is best obtained by treating the fresh gland with glycerine and water, preferably alkaline. It acts best at 40° C., and is destroyed by boiling. It is capable of emulsifying fats, and this is said to be due to the alkali of the gastric juice forming a soap with some of the fatty acids liberated by the enzyme. Whether or not the enzyme is capable of decomposing a fat, it is certain that that can only be to a small extent, and some observations of Minkowski's show that fat is not absorbed as soap in the body to any appreciable extent. In the preparation of emulsified fat on the large scale there is no appreciable formation of glycerine, and the fact that an emulsion can be made with an artificially-prepared juice free from alkali discredits the soap hypothesis.

Mr. Jones, referring to the quality of commercial pancreatin, stated that he had never met with an odourless and completely soluble sample. The U.S.P. test for it is the same as Messrs. Savory & Moore have used for many years for the partial valuation of preparations of the pancreas, but the best temperature at which to apply it is 52.5° C. and not 38° as stated in the U.S.P. The test is too stringent for American pancreatins, and five samples which he had examined took from fifty minutes to four hours to complete peptonisation, instead of the thirty minutes required by the U.S.P.

Considerable interest was added to the paper from the facts that Mr. Jones has long been connected with Messrs. Savory & Moore, and that this was his last appearance at the Association before leaving London to join Messrs. Brady & Martin's staff at Newcastle.

The discussion upon the paper did not bring out any novel features. Mr. HILL (President) remarked upon the close relation between the pancreas and diabetes, for when the gland is removed from the body diabetes ensues. Messrs. ROBINS, MORLEY, TAYLOR, CROUCH, and ROE also spoke, wishing Mr. Jones well in his new sphere of labour.

MIDLAND CHEMISTS' ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

On February 26, at Exchange Rooms, Birmingham, a paper, entitled a "A Botanical Romance," by Mr. A. McDonald Cobban, was read. The President (Mr. T. C. Clarke) occupied the chair.

The author explained that he should endeavour to show a few of the romantic diversities of plant-life. He would first take a few instances of the vast, and then of the infinitesimal. Among the mammoths he mentioned the rattan cane, of which many of them had had its striking peculiarities impressed upon them by their schoolmasters. This short instrument of torture was only a small portion of a long trailing palm, growing in India to the length of over 5,000 feet, trailing on the ground and ascending trees, never increasing in thickness, and each of its nodes marking where foliage had been. This peculiar lengthening was also noticed in certain seaweeds, the *Nereocystis* growing on the north-west shores of America, having an unbranched stem 300 feet long, no thicker than whipcord, and bearing at its summit, growing from a bladder-like enlargement, upwards of fifty forked leaves, each from 30 to 40 feet long. The *Macrocystis*, another seaweed, exceeds this by rising to the surface of the ocean, by many branchings, from a depth of

as much as 1,500 feet, and forms a floating mass of foliage some hundreds of yards in extent. The *Baobab*, a native of the tropics, has a trunk sometimes 70 to 80 feet in circumference, yet the height is little more. The branches, which are of great length, droop to the ground, and at a distance give the appearance of a green hillock. In Australia, a specimen of *Eucalyptus robusta* was found to be 102 feet in circumference. In the "Mammoth-tree Valley," California, there is a group of some ninety trees, not one less than 90 feet in circumference, and with a clear stem for from 150 to 200 feet from the ground. The *Rafflesia Arnoldii* bears a flower of fungoid texture 3 feet across, weighing 14 lbs., and emitting a most offensive odour. The *Aristolochia Gigas*, which flowered last year at Sheffield Botanical Gardens, bore a flower over 23 inches in diameter, and the bottom edge of the petal was elongated into a tail-like appendage some 31 inches longer.

Turning to minute organisms, it was remarked that until recent years it was the subject of much controversy whether certain of the flowerless plants, particularly the N.O. *Diatomaceæ*, with its sub-orders *Diatomæ* and *Desmidiæ*, were really plants or not. It is now conceded that these organisms are plants. They exist both in fresh and salt water all over the world, presenting a diversity of species as well as of colour and marking. They consist of a glassy shell of a silicious nature, enclosing a soft coloured substance of a golden or brown hue, called endochrome. Henfrey mentions that this silicious deposit in the cell-walls remains as a skeleton after the plant decays. It has been stated by Dr. Barclay Montgomery that the bed of the ocean was made up of these bodies. The town of Richmond, U.S.A., was built on a stratum of these bodies 20 feet in thickness. These minute organisms form the principal food of the minor aquatic animals. The stomachs of shrimps have been found filled with them.

After a vote of thanks had been passed to Mr. Cobban, Mr. F. CASSON demonstrated and explained a quick method for the detection and estimation of lead in tartaric acid. The analyses of forty-two samples were shown, the results varying from '0016 to '0065 per cent. of lead, with an average of '0037.

The first annual dinner of the Midland Chemists' Assistants' Association will be held at the Colonnade Hotel, New Street, Birmingham, on Wednesday, March 25. Tickets, 3s. each, may be obtained from any member of the committee.

GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

At the meeting of this Association, held on February 27, Mr. JOHN BLACK read a paper on

THE PHOSPHATES OF IRON AND CALCIUM IN PHARMACEUTICAL SYRUPS.

Mr. Black said the earliest memories of even the oldest members of the profession were bound up with the production of phosphate syrups—either Parrish's or Easton's. In the history of Parrish's syrup one recognised something not unlike a prophecy of the changes that had come over the pharmacist's business. When this syrup was manufactured first in Glasgow—about 1855—its wholesale price must have been over 2s. per lb., and the retail price about 1s. 6d. per 4 oz. fluid: now it was bought by the hundred-weight and retailed at 6d. per 4 oz. In this great fall in price sugar played an important, but unfair competition a much more important, part. This syrup is now manufactured largely for the grocery trade, and 8 oz. sell for 6d. The author then dealt with the phosphates of iron and calcium in their relation to Parrish's syrup, estimating the value of the methods of precipitation and direct combination now in use. Having quoted Parrish's formula as first published in this country in 1859, and referred to the processes of Messrs. Jones, Howie, Saunders, and Martindale, he said that to prevent oxidation by the method of precipitation no one had yet suggested a remedy, and dry ferrous phosphate was still produced by this means, containing about 50 per cent. of protosalt. If it were worth the trouble he thought it quite practicable to produce ferrous phosphate in the dry state,

quite pure, by washing with boiling water from which the dissolved oxygen has been expelled in an atmosphere of CO₂. This was an ordinary laboratory expedient for protecting iron solutions from atmospheric oxidation, and required only a Woulfe's bottle arrangement, with a round bottom to admit of tilting if necessary, and heating by a steam-jacket. If this method were used in washing ferrous phosphate, he ventured to assert that the iron could be produced entirely in the ferrous condition. It was notorious that the iron in Parrish's syrup produced by precipitation and washing was almost entirely in the ferric state. A great change had passed over the phosphate syrups, however, since precipitation had been abandoned. If a tint of ferric salt was observable in an uncoloured syrup, like syr. Easton's or syr. ferri phosph., it was due only to the fact that a perfect hydrogen atmosphere was not possible, practically speaking. Lime still precipitated in all phosphate syrups from the difficulty of keeping tricalcic phosphate in solution in quantity over 1½ gr. per drachm; but in well-made syrup once this is filtered clear the syrup is permanent. If the sugar be the finest obtainable cane product, the inversion proceeds so slowly, with a normal quantity of free phosphoric acid, that he did not see how a well-made syrup might not be kept for years. The hydrogen atmosphere Mr. Jones spoke of was, to some extent at least, imaginary. It could not be got by generating it in an ordinary flask or bottle with a cork. If it could, it would depend largely on the skill and ingenuity of the operator. Of course, if a cork was used it must be rubber, and fit the bottle-neck so as to pulsate freely; because if it gained in any way—even with five hours' digestion of the iron with the acid producing it—the hydrogen would be largely replaced by atmospheric oxygen, and it would get below the hydrogen. The use of a valve would obviate this difficulty—not a glass one, but a piece of flexible rubber tubing closed at its upper end, but slit in the centre longitudinally to admit of the escape of the hydrogen under pressure from the inside, but closing automatically the moment that was released. This would give the hydrogen a chance of driving out the air during digestion, which any flask or bottle closed by a cork could not give. He proposed as an improved method to put the whole of the materials together in one flask, and assist the hydrogen by carbon dioxide, which, from its density, would get below the hydrogen, and, before the syrup was run in, would have completely driven out both air and hydrogen, and, if heated to expel excess of CO₂, will have created almost a vacuum before the syrup was run in. By this means chemists would be able to guarantee the strength of their syrups. Parrish's formula was still largely used, however, and so long as the public could buy 8 fl. oz. for 5½d. in grocers' stores—which were very dilute solutions of lime and ferric iron—it would continue to be made, until medical men insisted on Squire's preparation, which some of them do now. In samples he had obtained, those made by chemists from Parrish's formula showed the calcium phosphate in good quantity, whilst in those made for grocers the iron was still less in quantity, and the lime was generally merely a film at the bottom, and in some cases only a turbidity, whilst the iron was nearly absent.

GIFT TO THE ASSOCIATION.

The PRESIDENT intimated the presentation to the Association of a handsome materia-medica cabinet from Messrs. Evans, Sons & Co., and he was authorised to convey to that firm the thanks of the Association for the gift.

MEMORIALS FOR THE PHARMACEUTICAL COUNCIL.

The PRESIDENT reported that the Council of the Association had resolved to memorialise the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society regarding the question of prescribing proprietary medicines. The observations of Scotch Judges and others upon the Pharmaceutical Society in connection with recent prosecutions had also been under the consideration of the Council, and it was resolved to adopt a similar course in reference to these. Both memorials would be submitted to the members of the Association at their next meeting.

Papers are down for next meeting on "The Aromatic Waters of the B.P.," by Mr. Boyd, and "Mucilage," by Mr. McClure.

Legal Reports.

"CLUB-SODA."

COCHRANE V. MACNISH.

ON February 29, before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (Lords Watson, Hobhouse, Morris, and Davey, and Sir Richard Couch), an appeal from a judgment of the Supreme Court of Jamaica was heard.

Mr. Byrne, Q.C., and Mr. John Cutler were counsel for the appellant; and Mr. Moulton, Q.C., Mr. Willis Band, and Mr. Ernest Spencer for the respondents. The appellant, Sir H. Cochrane, carries on business at Dublin and elsewhere under the style of Cantrell & Cochrane, and since 1877 has sold soda-water under the fancy title of "Club-soda." On September 11, 1877, the firm registered in London as a trade-mark a label they used for their "Club-soda." All the bottles of "Club-soda" sold by them have borne that label. The respondents, Messrs. A. MacNish & Sons, merchants, Kingston, Jamaica, were selling soda-water of their own manufacture in Jamaica as "Club-soda," and this suit was instituted to restrain them from using the mark or title "Club" in labels affixed to their soda-water. The respondents pleaded that their labels were entirely dissimilar in wording, colour, and shape, and that purchasers could not be deceived. Mr. Justice Northcote, in April, 1894, gave judgment for the respondents with costs, and the Supreme Court dismissed Messrs. Cantrell & Cochrane's appeal. Lord Morris, in now giving their Lordships' judgment, said it was quite true that no one could mistake the two labels, and unlikely that anyone in the trade would be deceived, but in the case of casual customers the probability of deception was obvious. People who called for soda-water or soda-and-whisky did not usually handle the bottle or examine the label. Their Lordships thought the use of the words "Club-soda" by the respondents was calculated to deceive. Then came the question whether the appellant had disintitiled himself to the protection of the Court by reason of the representations which he made in connection with his trade-mark. The majority of the Court below held that the representation on the bottles, "Manufactured in Ireland by H.M. Royal Letters Patent," amounted to saying that the ingredients were patented; but the appellants' trade was an honest trade, and their Lordships were not prepared to hold that by some words not designed to mislead, and at most equivocal, the appellant had been guilty of a misrepresentation which disintitiled him to relief. Their Lordships would, therefore, humbly advise her Majesty to reverse the judgment of the Supreme Court with costs, and to accord the appellant an injunction restraining the respondents from infringing his trade-mark. The respondents must pay the costs of the appeal.

THE BANK AND THE MUSK.

IN the Lord Mayor's Court on February 2, before the Common Serjeant (Sir Forrest Fulton, Q.C.) and a jury, Messrs. Luck & Billot, perfumery-merchants, Dashwood House, New Broad Street, E.C., sought to recover 27l. odd from the London Banking Corporation (Limited), in respect of a parcel of musk which had been shipped to Canada. Mr. Lewes Glyn was counsel for the plaintiffs and Mr. Ball for the defendants, and the question involved being a legal one entirely, it was left to the Judge. In June, 1895, plaintiffs consigned to Messrs. Taylor & Co, Toronto, a parcel of musk, value 27l. 16s. They consigned it through the Colonial Parcels Express, a carrier's business, conducted at 5 Carter Lane, E.C., by—as it subsequently appeared—a Mr. Phillips, since disappeared. An invoice was sent with the musk, and the carriers were instructed to collect the money for the plaintiffs. It appeared that the musk had been handed by the Colonial Parcels Express to Messrs. J. F. Allen & Co., shipping agents, of Fenchurch Street, who, in turn, passed it on to the Canadian Express Company. That company duly delivered the musk to Messrs. Taylor and received payment, subsequently forwarding the amount to Messrs. Allen. Messrs. Allen paid the money to the defendants, they having been instructed to do so by Phillips. Phillips had obtained from the bank a loan of 40l. on a promissory note, offering as security the musk in question, which, it was

said, he represented as his own property. The parcel, it appeared, was stamped with the plaintiff's name, but Mr. Read, a director of the bank, to whom it was shown, said he did not see it when he went to Messrs. Allen's office, and he made no further inquiries into Phillips's statement that the musk was his property. For the plaintiffs it was argued that, although the defendants might have a cause of action against Messrs. Allen, they could not retain money which admittedly belonged to the plaintiffs. It was contended for the defendants that, as the goods had never been in the defendants' possession, and that the defendants had merely received money from Messrs. Allen, the plaintiffs could not, in law, follow the money and reclaim it. The Common Serjeant said if the money was ear-marked the defendants would have no right to it, nor to the goods had they passed into their possession. But the money paid to the defendants was paid by Allen's own cheque; and, after a long argument, he held, as a fact, that the defendants did not see the name of the plaintiffs upon the goods, and gave judgment for the defendants. Leave to appeal was given if 25l. was paid into court within a week as security for costs.

UNSTAMPED MEDICINES.—A CHEMIST'S HEAVY FINES.

RICHARDSON JEFFERSON DODD, chemist, of 70 Tottenham Court Road, appeared at the Marlborough Street Police Court, on March 4, to five summonses, taken out at the instance of Thomas Casack, an Inland Revenue inspector, for selling certain medicines—namely, "Dodd's Female Corrective," "Dodd's Female Tonic," and "Dodd's Female Pills"—without having, as required by law, a stamp attached to each bottle and box, indicating the amount of duty paid.

Mr. Alpe, barrister, prosecuted on behalf of the Inland Revenue, and Mr. Todd, solicitor, was for the defence.

Mr. Alpe said that on five different occasions during December, 1895, an Inland Revenue officer purchased samples of the medicines in question, and on each occasion they had no stamp attached. The defendant had on a previous occasion been fined for a similar offence.

Mr. Todd, on behalf of the defendant, who pleaded guilty to the stamps not being affixed as required, said that Mr. Dodd issued a very large number of labels for his medicines, and it was frequently a nice point as to whether many of them actually came within reach of the Act. On the previous occasion referred to by Mr. Alpe, the Magistrate decided that he (Mr. Dodd) was wrong, and he had to pay the penalty. He had since then been doing his utmost to abide by the Act of Parliament, but having four shops, and a very large business, could not always be on the spot to see that his orders were carried out. He was, therefore, greatly in the hands of his assistants. He (Mr. Todd) did not wish to impute anything against the latter, but the stamps were worth money. He (Mr. Todd) was instructed that on the occasion in question an assistant, in direct defiance of Mr. Dodd's orders, had sent out the articles without stamps. Under the circumstances he did not think it a case for an exaggerated penalty.

Mr. Hannay said upon reference he found that Mr. Dodd was fined at the end of 1894 by Mr. Plowden.

Mr. Todd: They were different labels, sir.

Mr. Hannay (examining a bottle of black-looking medicine): It looks very much like the old-fashioned black draught.

Mr. Alpe said there was no doubt whatever about these articles coming under the Act.

Mr. Hannay: I see, Mr. Dodd, on referring to the book that I fined you on the last occasion 10l. on each of two summonses, and 2l. 10s. on each of five others. I shall now fine you 10l. on each of three summonses, and 5l. on each of the remaining two, making, in all, 40l.

Bankruptcies and Failures.

Re JOHN BERRY, 18 Westbourne Road, Barnsbury, N.,
Licensed Medicine-vendor, &c.

A FIRST meeting of creditors was held under this failure at the London Bankruptcy Court, before Mr. G. Wreford, Official Receiver, on February 28. The debtor commenced

business in January, 1884 at 25 Lyon Street, Caledonian Road, with a capital of 50*l*. In 1886 he removed to his present address. He opened boot and shoe stores in 1892, and the following year added a drapery branch. He is the manufacturer and retailer of Berry's lung-healer and Berry's embrocation, and has since January, 1894, held a licence for the sale of medicines. The business consisted solely of dealing on the weekly credit system, and debts are now due to the amount of 600*l* by weekly instalments from customers. The debtor ascribes his failure to stoppage of his credit in January last by his father-in-law. He roughly estimates his liabilities at 770*l*, and his assets at 342*l*. Mr. Lionel Hy. Lemon, C.A., 4 King Street, Cheapside, was appointed trustee to act with a committee of inspection to wind up the estate in bankruptcy.

Re W. H. TURNER, Uffculme, Devon, Chemist.

THE MESSRS. SOUTHCOTT & HONEY, accountants, have prepared an approximate statement of affairs hereunder, showing liabilities amounting to 308*l*. 18*s*. 8*d*. Messrs. Southcott & Honey state that it is at the request of the principal creditors, Messrs. Evans, Gadd & Co., who are interested to the extent of nearly 75*l*, that Mr. Turner has put his affairs in their hands to make the best arrangement possible for his creditors, with the least delay and expense. They purpose selling the business as a going concern.

Deeds of Arrangement.

Barron, William, jun., 37 Winchcomb Street, Cheltenham, chemist.

Trustees, Henry G. Margrett, 16 Cambray, Cheltenham, accountant, and another. Dated, February 22; filed, February 23. Liabilities unsecured, 4,363*l*. 9*s*. 3*d*.; estimated net assets, 600*l*. The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Andrew & Co., London	727	0	0
Balcomb, J., Cheltenham	60	0	0
Barron, W., sen.	105	0	0
Bradbury, J., Cheltenham	85	0	0
Bull, J., Cheltenham	250	0	0
Cheltenham Examiner, Cheltenham	15	0	0
Doogood Bros., Cheltenham	11	0	0
Drake, Miss, Cheltenham	11	0	0
Hearon, Squire & Co., London	17	0	0
Lance, J., & Co., Cheltenham	30	0	0
Malcolm, Cooke & Co., London	572	0	0
Margrett, H. G., Cheltenham	1,414	0	0
Mauderville, A. M., London	61	0	0
Riley, J., London	209	0	0
Shirer & Haldon, Cheltenham	12	0	0
Smythe, A. J. (extric. of)	44	0	0
Swis & Turner, Cheltenham	500	0	0
Towne, Rev. L. B.	28	0	0
Wadley, —, Frampton-on-Severn	25	0	0
Whittard, the Misses, Cheltenham	14	0	0
Bankers' claims	100	0	0

Turner, William Henry, Uffculme, chemist and dentist. Trustee, Albert L. Honey, 23 Catherine Street, Exeter, accountant. Dated, February 24; filed, February 26. Liabilities unsecured, 308*l*. 18*s*. 2*d*.; estimated net assets, 360*l*. 0*s*. 7*d*. The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Evans, Gadd & Co., Exeter	72	0	0
Gomn, Mrs., Uffculme	50	0	0
Hodge & Son, Plymouth	12	0	0
Turner, J., Bristol	42	0	0
Wyatt, —, Uffculme	13	0	0

AMERICAN PHOSPHATES—Mr. Samuel Peacock (Philadelphia) states that South Carolina produces the largest proportion of the output of mineral phosphates in the United States, Florida standing next, and Tennessee coming last. In Tennessee the output in 1895 was about 50,000 tons as against 15,000 tons in 1894. The phosphate-miners of Tennessee are much hampered by lack of capital. The entire phosphate-trade suffers from lack of organisation and from reckless competition.

Gazette.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Dalgleish, H. G., and Williams, A., mineral-water manufacturers, under the style of Dalgleish & Williams, Nottingham.

Lees, B., and Pass, J., under the style of Benjamin Lees & Co., Oldham, cotton manufacturers, Manchester, under the style of Charles Newsome, surgeons' lint manufacturers.

Long, F. J. T., and Long, S. G. H., chemists and druggists, Dover, under the style of Long Brothers.

McLaren, C., and Childs, A., brush manufacturers, Aldgate Avenue, Aldgate, E.C., under the style of McLaren & Co.

Stokes, W., and Jones, C. C., mineral-water manufacturers, Newtown, Montgomeryshire, under the style of Stokes & Jones.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACTS, 1883 AND 1890

RECEIVING ORDER

Howell, W., Glasshouse Street, Regent Street, W., late Upper Bedford Place, W.C., proprietor of a patent-medicine.

RECEIVING ORDER RESCINDED AND ADJUDICATION ANNULLLED.

Lewis, Edwin Alaric, Calthorpe Street, Gray's Inn Road, W.C., doctor of medicine.

ADJUDICATION.

Wharton, William, Thorpa ch, Yorkshire, veterinary surgeon and b'acksmith.

New Companies and Company News.

W. HOOD AND PARTNERS (LIMITED).—Capital 2,000*l*., in 1*l*. shares. Objects: To acquire the business carried on at South Bank, Yorks, as "C. W. Dunn & Co.," and to manufacture, sell and deal in mineral waters of all kinds, non-alcoholic British wines, herb and non-excisable beers, &c. The regulations of Table "A" in most cases apply.

OLD ENGLISH VINEGAR COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 15,000*l*., in 10*l*. shares (of which 12 are Founders'). Objects: To acquire the business carried on at King Street, Hammer-smith, as "The Victoria Vinegar Company," to enter into an agreement with Elizabeth A. Lewis and others, and to carry on business as vinegar brewers and merchants, and manufacturers of and dealers in mustard, oil, pickles, sauces, &c.

BURNS, HARE & CO. (LIMITED).—Capital 4,000*l*., in 1*l*. shares. Objects: To enter into and carry into effect several agreements, to acquire the Diadem Works, North Street, Hull, the property of Burns, Hare, & Co., and to carry on the business of salt-producers, manufacturers, importers, exporters and merchants, wholesale drysalts, warehousemen, packers of grocers', druggists', and drysalts' sundries, &c.

CRYSTAL MANUFACTURING COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 35,000*l*., in 1*l*. shares. Objects: To enter into and carry into effect an agreement dated February 21, and made between Wm. E. Pearse of the one part, and Albert E. Seamer (for the company) of the other part, and to carry on the business of chemists, druggists, drysalts, and importers and manufacturers of and dealers in pharmaceutical, medicinal, chemical, industrial and other preparations, articles, products, &c. The first subscribers (each with one share) are:—Wm. E. Pearse, chartered accountant, and S. Platts, clerk, of 145 Cannon Street, E.C.; A. Martin, Sidcup, Kent, accountant; Joseph Perry, 175 Essex Road, Islington, clerk; H. J. Church, 70 Ashburnham Road, Greenwich, clerk; H. Adams, 111 Mayall Road, Herne Hill, S.E., clerk; A. Paleston, 13 Sherborne Lane, E.C., solicitor. Registered without articles of association.

UNREGISTERED DENTAL PRACTITIONERS' ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN (LIMITED).—Limited by guarantee, having a membership of not more than 1,000, each being liable for 5*l*. in the event of winding-up. Objects: To obtain Parliamentary or other legal acknowledgment of the rights

Of the members in case of any alteration of the Medical and Dental Acts, to help forward any Bill that recognises them, and generally to advance and assist the interests of the members. The first subscribers (each of whom is described as "an extractor and maker of teeth"), are:—W. F. Bowen, Stonewall, Bolton; J. R. Taylor, The Poplars, Burnley Road, Bacup; F. Butterfield, 6 King Street, Oldham; J. W. Whitworth, 59 Blackburn Road, Radcliffe; J. S. Harter, 30 Manchester Road, Bolton; J. Pendlebury, Rose Hill, Atherton; J. S. Turner, Well House, Haslingden. The management is vested in a president, vice-president, councillors, hon. secretary and hon. treasurer. The first president is William F. Bowen, and the first vice-president is Adam Greenhalgh. Registered office, 6 King Street, Oldham.

At an extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of A. & F. Pears (Limited), held on February 2, it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. T. J. Barratt, who presided, to convert the 5% ordinary shares and the 5% deferred ordinary shares of the Company each into five 1% shares respectively. The object of the conversion, Mr. Barratt said, was to increase the number of the shareholders, believing that the more partners they had the better it would be for the business.

The report of Price's Patent Candle Company (Limited) states that the profit for 1895 amounted to 32,859%, as compared with 69,594% in 1894. The disposable balance was 63,577%, including the balance brought forward. The directors recommend that 12,500% be written off for depreciation of fixed properties and plant and a dividend of 17s. 6d. per share be paid, making with the dividend of 15s. per share paid in September last a dividend of 1% 12s. 6d. per 16% share for 1895, as against 1% 7s. 6d. for 1894, adding 10,000% to the reserve fund, and carrying forward 8,264%.

W. B. FORDHAM & SONS (LIMITED).—The tenth annual meeting of this company was held at the company's offices, King's Cross, on February 28. Mr. W. B. Fordham was in the chair. The report was adopted, a dividend being declared which with an interim dividend which had been paid made a distribution of 10 per cent. for the year, the tenth year in succession in which that amount had been paid, making the full amount of the original capital, a circumstance which drew from one of the shareholders the remark that they had discovered how to eat their cake and have it too. It was stated that the year's profits allowed of the payment to the directors of an extra remuneration of 500%, and of the distribution of a bonus to the employees, in addition to the dividend. The chairman was the retiring director, and he was re-elected with many compliments.

BLEASDALE (LIMITED).—The second general meeting of the shareholders of Bleasdale (Limited) was held in the new showroom of the company at York, on February 28. Mr. Councillor Wilson, J.P., of Harrogate, was in the chair, and there was a fair attendance of shareholders. The report stated that the sales in 1895 had been 8,500% above those of 1894. To bring the factory abreast of the times, improved compressed tablet, grinding, and other machinery had been installed, and the rapid development of trade in the company's "put-up" specialities had necessitated considerable structural improvements. The greater portion of this expenditure had been paid out of revenue. A reasonable amount had also been expended in advertisements, the result of which the directors considered highly satisfactory. An expensive lawsuit and exceptional repairs had affected the amount available for dividend. The balance sheet, however, showed a balance of 1,338% 12s. 6d., of which 530% 9s. 8d. had been paid as an interim dividend—viz., at the rate of 5 per cent. for the first half-year—and the directors now recommended a dividend of 3s. per share, being at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the last half-year. This would leave a balance of 118% 11s. 10d. to be carried forward. The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, stated that the company were beginning the new year well. The sales for January had been the best Bleasdales had ever had for that month. He referred with satisfaction to the conduct of the lawsuit, which they gained, to the new "put-up" goods they were bringing out, and to the excellent results they had experienced from advertising.

The report was adopted, and the retiring director (the Chairman) and the auditors were re-elected.

THE SALT UNION (LIMITED).—The seventh annual report of the directors of the Salt Union (Limited) states that the gross tonnage of salt delivered by the union in 1895 was 1,217,000 tons. The depression of 1894 in the industries in which salt is used continued through the greater portion of 1895, and there had been a decrease in shipments. During the year 14,697% 12s. 7d. has been spent in the development of the company's works in the Durham district, including the provision of loading-stages and other shipping facilities. These extensions had, despite the general decrease in the salt trade in the Durham district, enabled the union to increase its own trade there, as compared with that of previous years. During the year 15,587% 13s. 4d., expended on new works, had been charged to capital account. The amount to the credit of profit and loss account was 314,208% 13s. 10d.; after deducting the cost of maintenance of plant, distributors' discounts, agency, and other charges set forth in the profit and loss account, the profits from all sources amount to 162,154% 14s., and the amount brought forward, 10,158% 17s. 11d.—172,313% 11s. 11d.; from this deduct debenture interest, leaving 121,238% 11s. 11d. The directors recommend that dividends for the year ended December 31 last be declared at the rate of 7 per cent. on the preference shares, which will require 70,000%, and at the rate of 2 per cent. for the year on the ordinary shares, which will absorb 40,000%, and that there be carried forward 11,238% 11s. 11d. The report was submitted to a general meeting of shareholders on Thursday last, and adopted, on which occasion the chairman of the Salt Union referred to the competition of the Alkali Union with the Salt Union. An offer, he said, had been made by the Salt Union to arrange terms, but without success, and, in consequence, the Salt Union board were seriously thinking of going into the chemical trade themselves, and thus carrying the war into the enemy's camp.

THE SANITAS COMPANY (LIMITED).—The nineteenth ordinary general meeting of this company was held at their works on February 27 under the presidency of Mr. F. H. L. R. Moll. The chairman said their business during 1895 had surpassed that of 1894, and was continuing to increase, but they were still meeting with unfair competition by people who play upon their name and trade-mark. They were determined to extirpate that sort of competition. During the year they had opened a City depot and show-rooms at 29 Queen Victoria Street, E.C. They now proposed to pay a dividend and bonus, which, with the interim dividend paid in June last, made a total distribution for the year of 13% per cent. on the fully-paid shares. Mr. C. T. Kingzett (managing director) also spoke, and in the course of his remarks commented on the cutting of the prices of their goods. When they started their business in 1873, he said, they were not in a position to advertise to any considerable extent, and had, as all such trades had, to depend to a certain degree upon the good will of the chemists who sold their goods, so it was only fair that they (the chemists) should receive a considerable remuneration for their share in the business. Now their extensive advertising creates the demand, and in the main it is the chemist who feeds it. He regretted to add that in some cases, if the chemist can sell some substituted article with a better profit, he will rather do that, so that they were not altogether too grateful to some chemists. Lately there had been an association of manufacturers and wholesale distributors formed with the idea of protecting their joint interests. They had held aloof from this association because, in the first place, they had a great respect for free trade, and they were not altogether sure but what the man who cuts is, to a certain extent, their friend, because so long as he pushes the sales that was to their advantage. At the same time, they had considerable sympathy for the chemists who would like to get full prices, and if some easy scheme could be elaborated which would accomplish this object they might join; but of all the schemes so far submitted there was not one which was either easy, or, as they thought, would secure the result aimed at. To adopt the schemes which have been accepted by some firms would involve the necessity of employing another staff of certainly six clerks, and then they would not have the least security that the object would be attained.

Presentation to Mr. Cornelius Hanbury.

LAST Saturday afternoon the employés of Messrs. Allen & Hanburys (Limited) in the several establishments in London met together over a cup of tea at St. Andrew's Institute, Bethnal Green, to do honour to their chief, Mr. Cornelius Hanbury, by presenting him with his portrait painted by Mr. Percy Bigland. The Institute has an exceedingly handsome hall, and the drapings hung for the occasion gave it a homelike touch which was added to by the quiet and quiet manner in which the tea was served. At 6.15 P.M. in presence of a company numbering between 200 and 300, Mr. Nyren, one of the firm's travellers, took the chair, Mr. Cornelius Hanbury, Mr. Bigland and Mr. F. J. Hanbury supporting him on the right; at the left were Mr. W. R. Dodd, Mr. Tullet, and Mr. Albert Head. Mrs. Hanbury, Mrs. Head, Mrs. F. J. Hanbury, the Misses Hanbury, and other ladies of the family were also on the platform.

Mr. Nyren, in opening the proceedings, said that their object in coming there that day was to do honour to their chief, and in honouring him he felt they were recognising the great career of a great house whose reputation extended over the whole world. When it occurred to him that they should in some way do honour to Mr. Hanbury, he had mentioned the matter to those connected with the firm, and they all agreed that this tribute of respect was due to the privity of the commercial principles which Mr. Hanbury brought to bear upon his business, and which had won for him the respect and admiration of good men. Mr. Hanbury's high character and skill were well-known to them all, and he had been reminded in reading a recent article in *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST* that this characteristic had been associated with all who had been connected with the house. He referred especially to what Mr. Hanbury had said regarding the late Mr. Barry. They all felt that it was an honour to have anything to do with the building-up of such a firm as theirs. (Applause.) He spoke in respectful terms of the great business acumen, courtesy and kindness exhibited by Mr. Hanbury, and these he said had won their hearts. It afforded him immense pleasure to offer their chief this expression of their feelings, and he could not help saying that the portrait was one worthy of Mr. Hanbury. They had been fortunate in securing as their artist one who displayed his power not only in giving them a portrait, but in giving them a picture of life. In asking Mr. Hanbury to accept it, he expressed the hope that he might live long to have it in his possession, and when he passed away there would remain a picture of a kind friend and lover of all that was good and true, and one who was devoted to improving the common life of his employés. (Applause.) Mr. Nyren then uncovered the portrait.

Mr. Hanbury, on rising to respond, was received with cheers again and again renewed. He said when he was first told that the employés of the company desired to present him with his portrait he was deeply touched, and it was with more than ordinary pleasure that he now received the invaluable gift, for it expressed to him that they truly felt that their welfare was an object very near his heart, however inadequate the manifestation on his part might have been. He could not but be exceedingly gratified, and this occasion could not fail to be a bond of additional union between them. When he looked back upon the past he felt how great a responsibility had fallen upon him. It was now five and forty years since he had come to the business, having just then taken his membership of the Royal College of Surgeons and the licence of the Society of Apothecaries. He had also married. It was in the autumn of 1850 that he went to Plough Court, at which time the business was carried on by his uncle, Daniel Bell Hanbury, by his own father (also Cornelius Hanbury), and by Mr. Barry, all of whom had succeeded William Allen, who, he explained, was in partnership with Mr. Howard, the founder of the Stratford firm. William Allen gave a great deal of his time to philanthropic work, and for many years was treasurer of the British and Foreign School Society, and he gave so much of his means to charitable objects that he never became a rich man. Mr. Barry also was a philanthropic, taking special interest in prisoners condemned to capital punishment, of whom, it is sad to say, there were many in those days. When he thought

of the good these men had done in the world, he felt the great responsibility which devolved upon him. It was also his great privilege to work by the side of his cousin, Daniel Hanbury, for twenty years, until his retirement in 1870, and for five years after that, being alone in the business, he was never away from it for more than three consecutive days until 1875, when his surviving son, Mr. Frederick J. Hanbury, joined him. They knew his son. (Applause.) But they might not be aware that he had seven daughters, and with the exception of two of them, one a missionary in China and another a missionary in India, they were all represented there that evening. Indeed, he might say that there were at present four generations of Hanburys—his mother, himself, Mr. Frederick and his sons (his grandsons). He spoke of these matters because he felt that the portrait which they had given him was now a family affair, and in that connection he would like to show them an equally good portrait by Mr. Bigland of his mother, who would be 103 years old in June. [At this stage Mr. Hanbury uncovered the portrait of his mother.] This, he said, was painted about three years ago, when she had reached her centenary, and he added that he could never express sufficiently what he owed to his mother. In her early days she was associated with Mrs. Elizabeth Fry, a lady who had taken very deep interest in the welfare of female prisoners. His mother often accompanied her to Newgate, and they endeavoured as far as they could to relieve the terrible conditions under which female convicts were transported to Botany Bay. His mother's influence had been with him during his whole life, and he was pleased to think that he now had his own portrait to put beside hers. He looked upon it as a magnificent gift, and in a few sentences of warm affection concluded a speech of great interest, but much of which it is not necessary to report, as Mr. Hanbury seemed to speak to his workers as he would have spoken to members of his family. He resumed his seat again amid great applause.

Mr. Dodd, who had acted as treasurer, asked Mr. Bigland, the artist, to say a few words.

Mr. Bigland rose somewhat reluctantly, and said that it was a pleasure to him to paint Mr. Hanbury's portrait, for he had been an admirable sitter, and he was glad to think that they had so well appreciated his work. He was much interested in the proceedings, not only on account of the portrait being his work, but because his wife was a granddaughter of Daniel Bell Hanbury.

Mr. Head, who is married to Mr. Hanbury's eldest daughter, spoke in a very inspiring fashion to the workers. His address was devoted to relations which ought to exist between employers and employés, and he pointed out that good honest work brings its reward hereafter, as well as immediate benefits. He hoped that, although the firm now had "Limited" at the end of the title, there would be no limit to the expansion and extension of their energies. He recalled the interesting fact that the firm was founded in the reign of Queen Anne.

Mr. F. J. Hanbury then moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Nyren for presiding, and to the committee for the manner in which they had done their part.

Mr. Nyren responded in a single sentence. Thereafter there was an interval in order to allow those present to inspect the portraits, and at about 7 o'clock Mr. Lain took the chair, when the "Lom-Bards" gave a concert which was highly appreciated.

[We have photographs of the portraits of Mr. Hanbury and his mother in the engraver's hands, and hope to print them in our next issue.—*Ed. C. & D.*]

A NOTABLE PUBLICATION.—We have just received from that well-known London periodical *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST* the Special Annual Number, a portly volume, got up with exquisite and unimpeachable taste, containing many smart and pretty chromo advertisements from the chief English drugg-houses and makers of pharmaceutical products. The entire work is illustrated with rich engravings, which embellish it and at the same time demonstrate the worth and importance of the periodical, to whose editor we send our cordial congratulations and compliments, wishing him every prosperity.—*El Menorandum* (Barcelona).

Personalities.

PROFESSOR REYNOLDS GREEN has recently been appointed an Examiner in biology to the Victoria University.

DR. LUDWIG MOND is to be Chairman of the Chemical Section of the British Association during the Liverpool meeting.

BROTHER H. W. G. MORRIS, chemist, Thame, was on February 27 unanimously elected Worshipful Master of the St. Mary's Lodge (Thame), No. 1768.

MR. A. C. SEWARD, M.A., one of the Pharmaceutical Society's Botany Examiners, has been appointed to a similar position at the Glasgow University.

MR. GEORGE CHEVERTON, chemist and druggist, The Broadway, Tunbridge Wells (Kent), has been placed upon the commission of the peace for the borough of Tunbridge Wells.

MR. PEARSON CHAMBERS, chemist and druggist, 266 Smithdown Lane, Liverpool, was on February 27 installed W.M. of the Cycling and Athletic Lodge, No. 2335, at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool.

MR. CHAS. C. MOORE, F.I.C., who has had a long experience in the laboratory of Messrs. Brunner, Mond & Co., has commenced practice as an analytical and consulting chemist at 11 Old Hull Street, Liverpool.

MR. THOMAS TICKLE, who has been distinguishing himself at the Square school since he entered as Bell scholar in 1892, will shortly join the laboratory staff of Messrs. Bewley & Draper (Limited), Dublin, as chemist.

MR. CHARLES M. LUXMORE, D.Sc., Lond., Research Fellow of the Pharmaceutical Society, and Lecturer on Agricultural Chemistry to the Hertford County Council, is one of two nominated for the lectureship in Agriculture at the Aberdeen University.

THE Lord Chancellor has recently added the name of Alderman W. Mount (pharmaceutical chemist) to the Magisterial Bench of Canterbury. Alderman Mount has been a member of the Council of Canterbury for twenty-five years, and has filled the civic chair three years during that time.

MR. A. CONINGHAM, the Australian druggist-cricketer, who came to this country with the last Australian team, has left Brisbane for Johannesburg. In a match between Queensland and New South Wales, played this season, Mr. Coningham was the principal scorer, his account being credited with 151 and 51.

MR. G. CLARIDGE DRUCE, M.A., pharmaceutical chemist, Oxford, has been re-elected President of the Oxfordshire Natural History Society and Field Club. Amongst Mr. Druce's Vice-Presidents we notice such men as Professor S. H. Vines (botany), Professor Burdon Sanderson (physiology), and Professor Odling (chemistry).

MR. H. F. TREMBATH, of Johannesburg, an interview with whom we published in our issue of January 11, writes that he did not go out to South Africa as an assistant, but for the purpose of opening business, and that he ordered his supply of goods before leaving England. During the month of January, he says, business in Johannesburg has been practically at a standstill, except in splints, bandages, &c., of which the stock was bought up by the Ambulance Committee. One chemist shut up shop altogether, shouldered his rifle, and did guard-duty for ten days.

THE Executive Committee of the City and Guilds of London Institute have awarded the second Salters' Company's Research Fellowship for the encouragement of higher research in chemistry in its relation to manufactures to Sidney Williamson, Ph.D., F.I.C., F.C.S., who was for two years a student at the City and Guilds Technical College, Finsbury, and subsequently for three years at the City and Guilds Central Technical College. The Fellowship is tenable at the latter, and Dr. Williamson proposes to work on some questions bearing on foodstuffs generally, particularly by the examination of some definite albuminoids, with the ultimate object of ascertaining the influence of various manures on the growth of crops in so far as quality of produce is concerned.

Trade Notes.

THE BRITISH ANTITOXINE MANUFACTURING COMPANY announce a reduction in the price of antitoxine, both in powder and in 5-gr. tablets, to 3s. per oz. The preparations continue to be supplied by Messrs. Barclay & Sons.

MESSRS. W. B. FORDHAM & SONS (LIMITED) sent us an advertisement of a great variety of their goods to appear in our Exchange Column. We did not think the articles were *bona fide* surplus stock, so we declined the order. Like sensible people, Messrs. Fordham said they would have the list in our paper somewhere, so it is to be found as a page by itself among the advertisements.

DR. SAMUEL RIDEAL, whose book on "Disinfectants" we recently reviewed, has made an examination of the Sanitas Company's new disinfectant "Creocide," both carbolated and non-carbolated, and his experiments with cultures of pathogenic organisms show that the disinfectants are active bactericides. His report has been printed by the company, and copies of it may be obtained from the works, Bathnal Green, E.

IN our advertisement pages will be found an invitation to British manufacturers to take part in the International Pharmaceutical Exhibition which will be opened at Prague, in Austria, next August. According to all accounts, the Exhibition promises to be a genuine success, and a considerable number of continental and American houses have already taken space. The position of Prague in the centre of the chief industrial portion of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and its proximity to the great manufacturing towns of Saxony and Prussia, makes the city a peculiarly suitable gathering-place, and the Exhibition will no doubt be visited by many thousands of pharmacists from all parts of the Continent.

Marriage.

BARRITT—SEWELL.—On February 24, at The Friends' Meeting-house, Colchester, Councillor Ernest H. Barritt, son of Mr. H. Barritt, chemist and druggist, High Street, Colchester, to Miss Augusta Sewell, daughter of Mr. James Sewell, Colchester.

Deaths.

BUSH.—On February 18, Mr. William Bush, chemist and druggist, Walworth. Aged 74.

COLVIN.—On February 22, Mr. J. T. Colvin, chemist and druggist, Peckham. Aged 51.

GRINDELL.—On March 2, Mr. William Grindell, chemist and druggist, 34 Charles Street, Hull. Aged 73.

HODSON.—On February 15, Mr. Edwin Hodson, chemist and druggist, Burton-on-Trent. Aged 53.

LINES.—On February 19, at St. Leonards-on-Sea, in his 28th year, Charles Montague Lines, chemist and druggist, late of Messrs. Pope, Roach & Son, chemists, St. James's Street, and Messrs. Curtis & Co., St. Leonards.

WARDROPPER.—The death occurred on Saturday, February 29, of Mr. Paul Wardropper, of Cullercoats. The deceased gentleman, who was in his 92nd year, was well-known in the district, where he had resided for nearly twenty years, and taken a good deal of interest in its affairs. Mr. Wardropper was a native of Sunderland, and until a short while ago took an active part in the business of chemist and druggist, in partnership with his sons, in Huddlestons Street, Cullercoats. He was a frequent contributor to the columns of the *Newcastle Weekly Chronicle* above the *nom de plume* of "Friday." It is said that he was the oldest chemist and druggist in the United Kingdom. His father was Captain John Wardropper, and he was apprenticed to Mr. Dobson, chemist and druggist, Sunderland, and after serving his time commenced business for himself at the top of Dunning Street, Bishopwearmouth.

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THE SHOPS (EARLY CLOSING) BILL.

THE Pharmaceutical Council is, of course, quite justified in watching Parliamentary proceedings, and it is natural that the Shops (Early Closing) Bill should be one of the measures coming under its scrutiny. We gather, from the report of the discussion which took place in the Council on

that Bill on Wednesday, that there is at present no definite intention of either supporting or opposing the Bill officially. In view of the intense earnestness with which the proposal is supported by a very large number of the best chemists throughout the country, this policy is, we are convinced, a wise one, at least so far as not opposing the Bill goes. There is, however, evidently a strong animosity against it on the part of certain members of the Council, Messrs. Hampson, Allen, Hills, and Martin, especially. These gentlemen foresee certain difficulties in the administration of the proposed law, which it is easy enough to do, and they call it names, which is also easy, but not statesmanlike. To describe the project as grandmotherly legislation is very poor argument. All legislation partakes of that character more or less, and this Bill deserves that designation to a smaller degree than many others, for it leaves the individuals principally concerned to decide for themselves whether they will adopt it or not.

Sir John Lubbock is making the best possible use of the excellent start he got with his Bill. It was the first measure of the Session to get into committee, and no sooner had that advantage been secured than its principal promoter moved to transfer it from a committee of the whole House to the Grand Committee on Trade. Sir John Lubbock is pretty much of an old parliamentary hand by this time, and no doubt he expects that by getting his Bill into the sectional committee he will be more independent of the risks which attend all private members' legislation in the House of Commons. In the Grand Committee his Bill is pretty certain to be discussed, without being at the mercy of every individual member who may have a grievance, and there is very little question that in some form or other the measure will get through its committee stage early enough this year to give it an exceedingly good chance of finding its way on to the statute book. When the Grand Committee has done with it, it will have to be reported to the House of Commons, and its opponents there will then have another chance of maiming it; and finally there are a few philosophical members of the House of Lords who may be trusted to use it as a text for some lectures on social economics. But its principle has been agreed to; it is warmly supported by members of Parliament of all sections, and by men representing all classes, and we shall be surprised if before August an Act embodying the principle is not a part of the law of the land.

We are not devoid of sympathy in the abstract with those who oppose the principle of legislation in regard to shop-hours. It is not a wicked thing for a man to work fourteen hours a day, and it seems at first sight a rather high-handed proceeding for the law to interfere with his liberty in that respect. But that is, to say the least, an incomplete view of the matter. There is in existence among us a gigantic evil—gigantic not because it is serious in any one particular instance, but because it affects the happiness of hundreds of thousands of lives. This evil is recognised, it is believed, by a large majority of the persons concerned, to be absolutely unnecessary, and every one admits that it cannot be satisfactorily remedied by voluntary effort. That means has certainly and completely failed. Strenuous attempts to reduce shop-hours have been constantly in operation throughout the lifetimes of all of us, and shop-hours are much the same as they were fifty years ago. Very large businesses, stores, and universal providers have, it is true, of their own initiative reduced working hours to reasonable limits, but their example has not had much effect on smaller traders. "Open all night" is, indeed, the most up-to-date legend in metropolitan pharmacy. It may or may not be that the tradesmen of next century will be wiser than those of our time, but the question for the latter is whether they are to be balked of their fair share of the pleasures of life

by a greedy and obstinate majority. Posterity can do what it likes; the supporters of this Bill have themselves to think of.

Does any one doubt the strong desire of the majority of tradesmen for coercion in regard to their hours of work? If this is not the desire of a very large majority the Bill will be simply a dead letter. It cannot be put into operation at all under the present proposal except by a majority of two to one, and it is quite possible that Parliament may fix the necessary majority at a higher ratio than that. But, so far as chemists are concerned, it would seem that the majority in favour of the Bill is much greater than any proportion which the Bill is likely to fix. When we took a vote on Sir John Lubbock's first Bill, in 1886, to ascertain whether chemists wished to be included in it or not, it was found that of the 2,227 votes which we received out of 10,000 voting-papers issued, 1,330 were in favour of the Bill, and 734 against it. That showed a majority of nearly two to one; but when last year we tested the feeling of Liverpool Birmingham, and Brighton, as typical towns, we found the vote indicated a majority of nearer ten to one in favour of the Bill. The Liverpool votes sent to us were 106 for, 10 against, and 3 neutral; Birmingham, 101 for, 11 against, and 6 neutral; Brighton, 36 for, 6 against, and 3 neutral.

If there is any such majority as this among retail traders generally throughout the country, there can hardly be any question as to the need for the Bill, nor indeed of its ultimate success. With any such preponderance of opinion in its favour the few difficulties and the possible little friction of its early years will soon smooth down, and it is quite conceivable that before the end of the century shop-life all over the country will have changed its character from stupid semi-slavery to pleasure, and the great army of tradesmen and their assistants will wonder how they could have been so foolish as to deprive themselves of reasonable leisure so long.

THE BRITISH PHARMACOPEIA.

ALTHOUGH nothing definite as to the time of publication of the next British Pharmacopœia can be decided until the meeting of the General Medical Council in May, we are in a position to say that the work of revision is progressing satisfactorily. Few, except those actually engaged in this work, can sufficiently appreciate the labour involved in it, and even when all experimental data are brought together the work is by no means near completion, as their diverse opinions have to be reconciled, and the revisers have to face the most serious problem: will this process which we find go well in our laboratories be equally satisfactory in the hands of John Smith, the village chemist, and will the product keep? Such problems occur frequently, and they have to be solved in some way. The work involved is receiving attention from a number of competent pharmacists in various parts of the country, and the drug-trade may feel assured on one point at least—viz., that the new Pharmacopœia will not be an arm-chair product, but the result of honest experiment and proof, limited only by the time at the disposal of the committees.

It is undesirable that specific reference should be made to work done privately, but it will suffice to show the nature of the revision if we point to the recent paper by Mr. John C. Umney on oil of peppermint, and one by Messrs. Clark and Dott in this issue on *spt. æther. co.* Both of these are the record of work done for the perfection of the Pharmacopœia monographs on the respective subjects, and it is evident that though they incorporate substantial additions to our knowledge of the subjects, they will only affect a dozen or two lines of the Pharmacopœia. When it is remembered that

practically the whole of the pharmaceutical monographs in the Pharmacopœia are being subjected to this treatment, and that no new formulæ will be adopted without the same critical inquiry, some idea may be obtained of the labour which the Pharmaceutical Council's committee has undertaken. However, the work is well advanced, some of the sections of the book are in the proof stage, and the committee is pushing ahead rapidly. In view of the fact that pharmacopœial bibliography is at present at a standstill, we hope that the work of revision will not be unduly prolonged for the sake of absolute accuracy, and if early publication can be made possible by anticipating some stringent criticism, that could be tolerated in the face of general improvement all round.

THE DOCK COMPANIES' POSITION.

UP to the present the Dock Companies have returned no direct reply to the resolutions carried at the recent meeting of London merchants and brokers at Cannon Street Hotel protesting against the proposed "agreement" between the Dock Companies and the shipowners, which, if entered into, will have the effect of still further increasing the cost of handling goods at the Port of London. The dock companies have, however, issued a lengthy manifesto, in which they reiterate their contention that the main object of the "agreement" is to expedite the unloading of merchandise, and that the increased charges need fall only upon a comparatively small proportion of goods, and will not at all be applied to merchandise entrusted to the care of the Dock Companies themselves. They have also circularised the shipowners, asking them to sign the proposed "agreement" before March 10. So far, we understand, the shipowners present a united front in opposition to the Dock Companies' proposals, but there are many waverers in their ranks, and a share in the expected plunder, amounting to the abolition of a charge of 1s. 3d. per ton, now paid by the shipowners, are held out to them as a bait. On the other hand, a solid and powerful body of merchants, determined to budge no inch from the position of indignant defiance which they took up at the Cannon Street meeting, are pressing the shipowners to refuse their adhesion to the agreement.

The key to the position at present lies in the attitude which the shipowners will decide to assume. The probability seems to be that, after more or less serious searchings of heart, they will sign the agreement, and we are not sure that after all that would not be the best thing that could happen to the mercantile community of this city. For then the Rubicon would be crossed, and an agitation might arise which, if, skilfully and energetically led, could only have one ending—the abolition of the present dock system and its replacement by a municipal body or Dock Trust. If, on the other hand, the proposed "agreement" comes to naught, the agitation will subside, the enormous power now generated dispelled, and matters will drift along again, with a huge dock organisation as decrepit as the Chinese Empire, and as powerless for adapting itself to the needs of a progressive community, on one side, and a body of merchants to whom cheap and quick handling of goods is a question of life and death, ceaselessly struggling to preserve their foreign trade under the incubus of excessive dock charges, on the other.

If the Dock Companies could be bought out on their own terms they would no doubt only be too glad to be improved off the face of the earth, but if a Dock Trust comes about at all, it can only be successfully worked upon the basis of taking over the existing companies, stock, lock, and barrel, at the actual market value of their concern, and not a penny above that. For, though a modicum of sympathy need not

be withheld from the Dock Companies, who are compelled to behold their warehouses become emptier year by year, because the private wharves fetch away the bulk of the merchandise under the very eyes of the Dock Directors, and use, free of charge, the waterways which are kept up at the Dock Companies' expense, it must not be forgotten that the Dock Companies, through their reckless litigation and mismanagement in the past, are alone responsible for their present plight. After all, when the supposed interests of a handful of shareholders and directors are in opposition to the vital needs of a great city, it is not reasonable that the city should give way to the handful.

We are glad to hear that the Chamber of Commerce are now engaged in drawing up a detailed statement, specifically showing the difference in the cost between unloading and handling merchandise in London and in other ports. Information on this subject has been freely supplied to the Chamber by a number of City firms, and it is to be hoped that a vigorous use will be made of what can scarcely fail to be an impressive array of facts. That goods are better handled in London than elsewhere seems to be generally admitted; that sampling, sorting, and packing are carried out here in a manner that neither Liverpool nor any continental port can equal is notorious. What is driving away our trade in certain classes of goods is the excessive charges for putting goods on "show" for public sale, for warehousing and delivering them, and for performing the various manipulations of marking, sorting, weighing, repacking, &c. Isolated instances showing the difference between such charges in London and other ports have been repeatedly given in this and other journals. What is wanted now, as a first step in the campaign for restoration of London to the position to which its wealth, the enterprise and experience of its merchants, and its geographical situation naturally entitle it, is a reliable and carefully-tabulated statement showing precisely where our equipment is defective.

A JURY ON MEDICAL ETHICS.

The British juryman does not take amiably to the professional view of medical etiquette. At the Manchester Assizes last week, Dr. George Kingsbury, a medical practitioner of Blackpool, brought an action against the editor of the *British Medical Journal* to recover damages for an alleged libel. Dr. Kingsbury, it appeared, had accepted an appointment at a local hydropathic establishment, in pursuance of which he had a brass plate outside the establishment upon which his name and qualifications appeared. These also figured on the prospectuses of the institution. It appears that Dr. Kingsbury had previously written to the *B.M.J.*, asking whether it would be regarded as infamous conduct or censurable if he allowed his name to appear on the prospectus of a large hotel as its physician. In reply, the editor stated his opinion that such a course would be regarded as covert and unprofessional advertising and would involve severe criticism and rebuke. Later on in January last, under the heading "Hotel Physician," appeared an expression of opinion that "the medical man in question has not only disparaged the honourable traditions of the medical faculty, but contravened the well-understood rule of modern practice. Need we add that so reprehensible a departure from professional rule, in face, too, of the protesting dissent of the local practitioners, and in the absence, moreover, of our (self)-solicited opinion, the expression of which was unavoidably delayed for a week, is wholly incompatible with the honour and dignity of the profession, and justly subjects him to medical reprobation." There was no dispute that the plaintiff was the person referred to. Dr. Renaud, consulting physician to the Manchester Royal Infirmary,

and other medical men expressed the opinion that he had not done anything in contravention of the best traditions of the profession or of any rule. For the defence Sir Dyce Duckworth, Sir William Stokes, Dr. Ward Cousins, and Dr. Bateman thought the defendant had violated a well-known rule. Sir Dyce Duckworth admitted in cross-examination that his name appeared on the prospectus of an insurance company, and to that he did not object. Shown the name of Sir B. W. Richardson on the prospectus of an institution something like that on which Dr. Kingsbury's figured, he said he disapproved of that. The jury found it difficult to discover what Dr. Kingsbury had done to deserve medical reprobation, and they awarded him 150*l.* damages.

MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY.

The new registers issued from the General Medical Council offices, and published by Spottiswoode & Co., 54 Gracechurch Street, E.C., show that the medical profession is still on the increase. During 1895 the names of no fewer than 1,446 persons were added to the register. England maintains the lead so far as medical education is concerned, having turned out during the year 731 qualified practitioners. Scotland comes next with 565, and Ireland with 150, the second lowest number in the last case during the past twenty years. It is a fair indication of the increased popularity of the medical profession as a calling to find that in 1876 the total number of registrations was 1,009, and in those days the order of qualification stood as follows:—England, 605; Ireland, 222; Scotland, 179. At the present time, after removing 539 names from the register, all of which, except one, were on evidence of death, there are 33,601 names on the register, distributed as follows:—England, 19,875; Scotland, 8,876; Ireland, 4,850. We presume that these figures show where the practitioners were residing when they were registered. This would account for the abnormally high number of medical men in Scotland. The Dentists' Register now contains the names of 4,935 persons, or an increase of 34, which must be gratifying considering that hitherto there has been a tendency to decrease. The increase is entirely due to new licentiates, of which there is an increase of 61, the total with British qualifications now being 29.6 per cent. of the whole, leaving almost 70 per cent. on the register who were in practice before the Act passed. There are only 27 foreign dentists on the register, and as the General Medical Council have ceased to receive such qualifications the number is not likely to increase. In regard to the British qualification it is noteworthy that the Irish L.D.S. is on the down grade, while the Scotch one is mounting up slowly, which also applies to the English qualification.

BARGAINS.

We are waking up our old Exchange Column again. Once it was one of the most popular features of *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST*, but we found it so much trouble to keep it within legitimate limits that for a long time we have tried to check it rather than encourage it. The thing would not die, however, and now we propose to bring its advantages once more prominently under the notice of the trade. For the future it will be published in our coloured Supplement, and we ask chemists to consider it carefully. It offers an opportunity for disposing of, or for obtaining, second-hand trade articles, books, &c., which cannot be found anywhere else. The cost of using it is almost nominal, but we must make one stipulation quite clear. We must keep a despotical control over what we admit into it. It must not be used for regular trade advertising, and we will not let it be used, if we can help it, by persons who do not mean to act fairly. At the same time, we do not guarantee either the advertisers or the articles. We offer buyers the chance of depositing their money with us if they think fit to do so; if

they do not accept this method they take such risk as there may be. A good lot of bargains are spread out in the Exchange section this week, and new ones may be expected every week. Look at it.

Parliamentary.

THE SHOPS (EARLY-CLOSING) BILL.

ON Friday, February 28, in the House of Commons, on the order for going into Committee on this Bill,

Sir J. Lubbock moved that the order be discharged and that the Bill be referred to the Grand Committee on Trade.

Major Dalbiac opposed the motion, on the ground that a Bill affecting the interests of so large a number of people ought to be discussed in Committee of the whole House.

Sir J. Blundell Maple reminded the hon. member that the Bill could be discussed in the House on report. It contained details which were eminently suited for discussion in Grand Committee.

Sir F. S. Powell hoped the proposal of the right hon. baronet the member for the University of London would be agreed to. The hon. member proceeded to give reasons for his support of the measure, and there being some interruptions by members on the Opposition side of the House he protested vigorously against it, saying that such conduct was hardly consistent with the claim sometimes made by hon. members opposite that they were the special friends of the industrial classes, this being a Bill which vitally concerned the interests of hard-working people. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Wootton Isaacson supported the motion to refer the Bill to the Grand Committee.

Mr. John Burns remarked that the hon. baronet opposite had misinterpreted the interruption of which he complained. The desire of hon. members on his side of the House was that the Bill should be pushed on as quickly as possible. They all respected the hon. baronet too much to show him any intentional discourtesy.

On the invitation of Mr. Balfour, Major Dalbiac withdrew his amendment, the order was discharged, and the Bill was referred to the Grand Committee on Trade.

TUBERCULOSIS.

On the motion of Mr. Lees Knowles, M.P. for Salford W., the House of Commons on Tuesday decided to reappoint the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis and to extend the scope of its inquiry, so that it might further inquire and report on administrative procedures available for reducing the amount of tuberculous material in the food supplied by animals to man.

INFLAMMABLE LIQUIDS.

On the motion of Sir W. Walrond, M.P. for the Tiverton Division of Devon, a Select Committee was appointed to inquire into and report upon the sufficiency of the law relating to the keeping, selling, using, and conveying of petroleum and other inflammable liquids, and the precautions to be adopted for the prevention of accidents with petroleum-lamps.

THE SALE OF FOREIGN SPECIALITIES IN ITALY.—For some years very stringent regulations have been in force in Italy with respect to the sale of patent-medicines, particularly those of foreign origin. This law, however, does not appear to work at all smoothly, and in Milan, for one place, its provisions seem to be almost a dead letter. Among other things, the Act restricts the sale of poisonous preparations or medicines containing poisonous ingredients, and manufacturers of patents are bound to print the full formula of their preparations on the package, while foreign patents must, moreover, be specifically approved by the Supreme Board of Health before their importation is allowed. The question has been discussed whether it would be advisable to incorporate the patents approved of into the *Pharmacopœia*, but this step is considered undesirable; on the other hand it is generally thought that they should be embodied into a special appendix to the *Pharmacopœia*. A more stringent Poisons Act is also projected.

Citronella Oil and its Adulterants.

BY JOHN C. UMNEY, F.C.S.

IN the leading article on "A Citronella-oil Arbitration," which appear in the last issue of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, easy physical tests are set out for the detection of kerosene in citronella oil. The exertions of Messrs. Schimmel to check the adulteration of citronella oil have unfortunately only been successful up to a certain point—namely, in causing the natives to cease the admixture of their oil with kerosene, and to look about for some other substance which is not so easily detected, and at the same time almost equally cheap. I have recently had the opportunity of examining several samples of citronella oil which contain no kerosene, but whose characters, other than their specific gravity and solubility in 80 per cent. alcohol, indicate admixture with another adulterant, possibly, as observed on one occasion by Messrs. Schimmel & Co., one of the so-called wood oils, derived from a species of *Dipterocarpus*, although probably not those from which the gurjun oil of commerce is derived (*Dipterocarpus turbinatus* and other species). Three of the oils may be taken as types of this form of adulteration, and their characters are briefly as under:—

Specific Gravity.—The sp. gr. at 15° C. are somewhat high, being, in the case of No. 1, .9027, and, No. 2, .9034, and, No. 3, .9056. The oil which I have distilled from gurjun balsam has a sp. gr. of .916 at 15° C., whilst pure citronella oil, distilled from fresh grass, rarely exceeds .900.

Solubility in 80 per Cent Alcohol.—These three samples are readily soluble in alcohol of 80 per cent. strength, in a proportion of one part in three, but on further dilution a turbidity occurs, and after about eight to twelve hours a dark-brown deposit results.

Optical Rotation.—The optical rotation of the three oils is more laevo-rotatory than is usually found in pure citronella oil, being between -11° and -13° in a tube of 100 m.m.

Fractionation.—Differences are observable when fractionation of the oil is carried out. The following columns show a comparison of the proportions obtained at various temperatures from a sample of pure oil and these three oils respectively:—

Fractionation	Pure	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3
Below 200° C.	6 per cent.	6	9	8
200-205° C.	7	7	7	4
205-215° C.	12	13	8	12
215-225° C.	30	17	18	16
225-240° C.	38	43	32	32
Above 240° C.	29	24	15	28

It will be noted that the proportion in the impure oils boiling from 225° to 240° C. is greater in the case of Nos. 1, 2, and 3 than in the case of the pure oil. This is rendered more suspicious by the fact that the oils contain less geraniol (B.P. 231-232° C.).

Percentage of Geraniol.—Experiments have been made with a view to determine the amounts of geraniol present in the pure and adulterated oils. The amount present, as shown by the acetylation process, is, in the case of the pure oil, 64 per cent., and in all the pure oils examined falls between 60 and 64 per cent.; in the case of No. 1 it falls as low as 52 per cent., No. 2 to 50.4 per cent., and No. 3 to 51 per cent. An important difference is shown in the saponification figures of the pure and adulterated oils, the former being from 35 to 40, whilst the latter vary from 48 to 54. This difference is probably due to the presence of resin acids in the adulterant rather than a greater proportion of esters.

It is necessary, therefore, to take into consideration not only the specific gravity and behaviour of the oils in alcohol of 80-per-cent. strength, but also to observe the optical rotation, which should not exceed -8° in a 100m. tube, and in addition the proportion boiling from 225° C. to 240° C. in comparison with its geraniol percentage, as well as the saponification figure of the oil.

It is worth noting that neither the oil nor the portion of it boiling above 225° C. gives Flüchiger's reaction for gurjun oil, which consists in the addition of a drop of a cooled mixture of equal parts of sulphuric and nitric acids to a solution of the oil in twenty times its volume of carbon bisulphide, when a violet colour is produced. This colour is afforded with that usually imported into this country. The author of that test refers to the great number of wood oils which are obtained from various parts of Eastern Asia, and points out that should a wood oil not give this reaction it is probably derived from a different species of *Dipterocarpus* than those he has examined. This is also confirmed by Hirschsohn's observations on the same subject.

Science and Practice.

ARGON and helium are taking a back seat, Röntgen's rays having thrown them in the shade. The other week Professor Ramsay wrote to *Nature* protesting against other people taking up and publishing papers on a subject which another man has initiated, but so far none have sympathised with the professor. It was very courageous of him to take up the matter at all, in view of what has been done on Röntgen's rays since Professor Röntgen made his discovery. Last week there were several notes in *Nature* on the subject, half-a-dozen in the *Chemical News*, and the medical and photographic journals have also much to say about it. It would be idle to attempt to summarise these papers, for many of them are as footsteps in the dark. Still, the main point is that the rays are found to have chemical and molecular as well as optical properties, and whether these are inseparable characteristics or not remains to be seen. If everybody was of Professor Ramsay's way of thinking, we should have heard nothing more about the rays.

Diphtheria antitoxin has now passed into recognised materia medica, and this course appears to be justified by the results. For example, the mortality from diphtheria at the Middlesex Hospital last year was 17.64 per cent., 29 out of 34 cases having been treated with the antitoxin. In previous years without the remedy the mortality was from 35 to 64 per cent. In connection with bacterial medicine we notice that the *Lancet* (page 569) speaks in high terms of the Leicester Bacteriological Institute founded by Messrs. John Richardson & Co., where antitoxic serum is produced on a large scale. We also observe from a note in the *British Medical Journal* (February 29, page 575) that Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. now supply antityphoid serum in 10 c.c. tubes. M. Chantemesse has reported (*B.M.J.*, page 549) on three cases of typhoid in which he administered this serum, and all were convalescent in seven days—a contrast to the usual four to six weeks.

In these days, when so much is said against the prescribing of proprietary medicines, it is somewhat astonishing to hear that the Royal College of Physicians recently contemplated changing practical pharmacy in its examinations into "pharmacy" simply. Professor Burdon Sanderson perhaps voiced the sentiments of many in the drug-trade when he said "drugs should be handed over to the druggist," but there is another side to the question, and that has been expressed by Dr. Gordon Sharp, of Leeds (an old assistant

of Mr. Peter Boa's), who says: "Every dealer thinks he has a right to dictate to us combinations of drugs and chemicals, and we are flooded with mixtures, emulsions, pills, tablets, and concoctions of all kinds, and we are asked to make our patients swallow them. Surely there must be some reason for it; and is it not our ignorance of the subject of therapeutics?" It is a curious circumstance that druggists who become doctors are not, as a rule, greater sinners in the matter of dispensing than are those who have little skill in the art.

Paraldehyde is a little-understood medicine. Perhaps the Edinburgh school have studied it most carefully, and one of them, Dr. D. W. Aitken, writes (*Brit. Med. Journ.*, page 527), stating that he has given as much as 1 oz. to 4 oz. in twenty-four hours to an old lady, without bad effects. He has given 15 minims to 30 minims to an epileptic girl (19) when she felt, on rising, that she would have a fit that day. She used to have fits regularly, but none for a year, since she commenced to take the drug when she could not get it. This is a valuable observation.

The mention of paraldehyde takes us close to chloroform, in respect to which there is a paper by Dr. E. R. Squibb, in the last issued *Ephemeris* (page 1743), deserving attention—"The Manufacture of Acetone and of Acetone-chloroform from Acetic Acid" is the full title of the paper. The firm with which the author is connected have been stopped by the owners of the acetone-chloroform patent from making the anæsthetic from glacial acetic acid, and the object of his paper is to show that the patent incorporates nothing novel except the apparatus. But that point is of comparatively little interest alongside the fact that by heating glacial acetic acid to between 500° C. and 525° C. Dr. Squibb gets a remarkably pure acetone, and a correspondingly pure chloroform on chlorination. Moreover, he prefers the method to the alcohol one. The paper is interesting, but chiefly to chloroform-manufacturers, who will be able to refer to the original.

The Anti-cutting Crusade.

CHEMISTS of the South-west assembled at the Foresters' Hall, Plymouth, on Wednesday, to discuss the anti-cutting question. The meeting was convened by the Plymouth and District Chemists' Association, and a deputation from London of the Proprietary Articles Trades Association was present, consisting of Mr. Glyn Jones (Secretary), with Messrs. Barclay, Tebbutt and Norris. The chair was taken at 3 P.M. by Mr. C. J. Park (Plymouth), who briefly introduced the deputation.

Mr. Glyn Jones said he spoke from the standpoint of a retailer who had to face the cutter. It was a great difficulty that had to be faced, and the solution was to be found in the efforts of the Proprietary Articles Trades Association. It was to meet the manufacturer and bring about a fair *quid pro quo* state of things. The business man had his premises, standing and connection, and when it came to pushing the manufacturers' articles at little or no profit it was hardly to be expected that sales would increase. Certain first-class retailers can obtain good prices for their own articles, and are therefore able to do without the usual run of "cut" proprietaries. Substitution was not satisfactory and the best way was to make terms with the manufacturers. Many manufacturers seemed to be waiting to see which way the cat jumped. At a recent meeting of manufacturers it was agreed at present not to interfere with present prices, but one firm—the Homocoea Company—had resolved to have 1s. 1½d. in full for their article, setting a good precedent. If an article is worth 1s., sell it at such. Why should there be any minimum cutting price at all? The co-operation of the trade was necessary for the mending of affairs, and the grocer must be included in it. He has a moral right to sell certain preparations, such as meat extracts, foods, &c., and

a legal right to sell patents. Repeating what he had said at Bristol with regard to joining the Association he hoped Plymouth would follow.

A resolution was then put by the Chairman and seconded by Mr. Rendle to the effect—

That this meeting, having heard the report of the representatives of the Proprietary Articles Trade Association, pledges itself to support that organisation in its endeavour to place proprietary articles upon a sound and equitable basis.

Mr. A. P. Balkwill wished to know what action the leaders of the Pharmaceutical Society were going to take in the matter of anti-cutting. He considered it would be better to sell articles at the prices marked and no reduction.

Mr. Maitland (Stonehouse) thought the apathy of the retailer was due to the past treatment by the manufacturers themselves. How were they going to deal with firms or stores who sell these things at a bare or no profit?

Mr. R. H. Rendle (Devonport) said the manufacturers had forgotten their friends the retail chemists who were the means of first starting the sale of their articles. The people preferred to go to chemists for their patents, quoting Elliman's embrocation as a case in point, when the price was raised to 1s. The retailers wanted a definite profit, not a paltry 10 per cent., but a guarantee of at least 20 or 25 per cent., otherwise they must of course push their own articles. The retail committee of the Association should be increased to fifteen. There was a close bond between the manufacturer and the wholesaler, and the retailer ought to be equal to them. He criticised the doings of the Association, but hoped it would succeed.

Mr. P. A. Kelly said the Pharmaceutical Society first caused the fall of the retail chemist when they obtained the reduction of the patent medicine licence, thereby allowing almost anyone to take up the sale of patents, cutting following as a result of competition.

Mr. R. F. Roper (Plymouth) considered that the meagre list of members was a cause of the reluctance of others to join. It showed that the affair was not being taken up with vigour. The feeling existed among chemists that they had not been treated fairly by the manufacturers. He asked if there would be any restriction as to the retailer dealing direct with the manufacturer, or must it be through the wholesaler?

Messrs. F. W. Hunt, Condy U'Ren, and C. J. Park also spoke, and Mr. Glyn Jones briefly replied, and the other members of the deputation spoke on some of the points which had been raised. The resolution was then put and carried.

A motion was then proposed by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. U'Ren—

That this meeting of registered chemists in Plymouth and neighbourhood requests the Council of the Plymouth and District Chemists' Association to act as a local executive in connection with the Proprietary Articles Trades Association.

Another motion, by Mr. Maitland, seconded by Mr. Hearder, was—

That this meeting desires to express its pleasure at seeing that a number of influential manufacturers have already joined the Proprietary Articles Trades Association, and to assure them and all other manufacturers that any steps they may take in connection with the Association to ensure fair profits would meet with the approval and cordial support of every legitimate retail trader.

Both resolutions were carried *nem. con.*, and votes of thanks were accorded to the deputation.

Most of those present joined the Association at the close.

THE PHLOROGLUCIN TEST for free mineral acid is good. It was proposed by Gunzburg. Two grammes of phloroglucin and 1 gramme of vanillin in 30 grammes of absolute alcohol make the solution. It is used in detecting hydrochloric acid in the stomach-contents. Thus to a drop of the filtered matter add a drop of the reagent on a porcelain plate. Evaporate gradually to dryness over a flame. A beautiful rose-red colour begins to appear at the edges if hydrochloric acid is present. This is merely a test for free mineral acid, but HCl is the only one present in the gastric juice.

London Chamber of Commerce.

CHEMICAL SECTION MEETING.

THE annual meeting of the Chemical-trade Section of the London Chamber of Commerce was held at the offices of the Chamber on Thursday last. Mr. Chas. Umney, the retiring Chairman, presided, and there were also present Messrs. David Howard, Thos. Bennett, Thos. Christy, John Goddeu, Thos. Tyrer, Dr. Bernhard Dyer, and a representative of Messrs. Wm. Cooper & Nephews. The agenda was lengthy, and the first business discussed was the Metric Weights and Measures question. Mr. David Howard wished to have the attention of Parliament drawn to the importance of making the use of the metric system optional at once. At present firms are allowed to make contracts in metric weights and measures, but, excepting for scientific purposes, business firms might not have metric weights on their premises. This was absurd. If the use were made legally optional the metric system would gradually come to be adopted. Mr. Umney believed that Mr. A. J. Balfour, M.P., with whom the Metric Weights Committee had had an interview, while in favour of the metric principle in the abstract, was strongly opposed to the suggestion of making it compulsory within two years, on the ground that the trade of the country would thereby be seriously unhinged. Mr. Umney agreed with that view, and after some further discussion a resolution was adopted asking the council of the Chamber to endeavour to get an Act passed making it permissible to use the metric system in business. A discussion then arose on the present state of the law in regard to the adulteration of food, and the separation of drugs from other articles coming under the Food and Drugs Act. The consensus of opinion was in favour of the appointment of a board of reference consisting of representatives of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Pharmaceutical Society, the Institute of Chemistry, and the Chamber of Commerce, this Board to advise in the drawing up of the new Act. Mr. Howard pointed out that at the present time the analyst was the only person who was allowed to express an opinion in the court of justice excepting the judge himself. There was no evidence that an analyst possessed any knowledge of therapeutics or toxicology, and there was no standard excepting the B.P. (if the Magistrate liked that book). Nevertheless actions under the Food and Drugs Act were generally settled between the analyst and magistrate. "If in any case I were called upon to decide, say, on the purity of jalap," said Mr. Howard, "I, being no judge of drugs—(a statement which we may take as being 'spoke sarcastic')—would have to leave the decision to the much better judgment of the Magistrate, who may be an unpaid one, and perhaps not much more qualified than myself to decide the point." Mr. Christy urged the necessity of taking action against the sale of mixtures of coffee and chicory as coffee, and Mr. Umney backed him up in this view, stating that it was perfectly absurd that a caterer could serve coffee adulterated with chicory, caramel, and what not—(Mr. Christy: "Beaus")—while being liable to prosecution for selling adulterated milk with it. He suggested that in any mixtures of coffee and other materials the nature and the percentage of the admixture should be stated on the label. Considerable delay would be experienced in drafting a workable Act treating drugs entirely separately from food, but drugs might be placed in the same Act as a sub-section. Dr. Bernard Dyer suggested that the B.P. should be made the legal standard in a new Food and Drugs Act, but at the same time he said that no direct standard should be laid down in any Act of Parliament. Upon this Mr. Thomas Tyrer wanted to know whether it was not inconsistent to propose that the B.P. should be made statute law, and at the same time to deprecate the laying down of any standard in the Act. Mr. Umney said that the General Medical Council did not intend to take any steps to make the B.P. the standard in the New Food and Drugs Bill. After some further conversation a Committee, consisting of Messrs. Howard, Umney, Charles Preston, Hebner, and Dr. Dyer, was appointed to watch the progress of the question.

The next matter discussed was that of the restrictions placed on the chemical industry by the present Post-office regulations regarding samples. Mr. Christy said that a good deal of injury was done to trade in this country by the

fact that the Post Office declined to carry liquids in bottles as samples. Such liquids could be freely sent to India, the States and other parts of the world from all other European countries, and British traders ought in this respect to be put on a level with their competitors. Mr. Umney said that, at any rate so far as Italy was concerned, Mr. Christy was not quite correct. There the regulations pertaining to the sending of liquids in glass were the same as in this country. He had received samples of olive oil from Italy packed in juniper-berries in order to deceive the customs. It was true, however, that in this country the inconvenience attaching to the present regulations was extremely great. Ultimately another small committee, consisting of Messrs. Umney, Christy, and Bennett, was appointed to approach the Post-office in this matter.

The next matter under consideration was the possibility of taking action with the view of increasing the trade with British colonies in chemical products. This naturally led to a discussion of the famous Chamberlain circular, in the course of which Mr. Christy pointed out how much might be done in bringing new products from Africa, instancing the case of the new Kino gum that had recently been mentioned in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST. It was reported that the tobacco section were drawing up a circular for distribution in the colonies, giving information as to the growing and curing of tobacco, and that another section had offered prizes for new economic products from British East Africa. This subject dropped (no committee being appointed on it), but not until Mr. Tyrer had observed that it was precious little use discussing the matter until they had preferential treatment in regard to customs-duties between Britain and her colonies. After some other matters of comparatively small importance the election of the Chairman and Deputy-chairman for the coming Session was proceeded with. Mr. Umney, the present Chairman, said that he was compelled to retire owing to his many business and other engagements, and he read out the names of the Chairmen and Deputy-chairmen for the last twelve years, from which it appeared that from 1883 to 1885 the chair had been occupied by Mr. David Howard; from 1886 to 1890 by Mr. T. Tyrer; from 1891 to 1893 by Mr. Wightman; and from 1894 to 1895 by Mr. Umney. Mr. David Howard expressed regret at Mr. Umney's decision. The Chairman suggested that perhaps Mr. Tyrer might once more lend his valuable assistance as Chairman to settle the questions before the Chamber, a proposal which was seconded by Mr. Thomas Christy. Mr. Tyrer accepted the chairmanship in a short speech, in which he stated that he would not be content until the chemical-manufacturers in this country had the same privileges in all respects that were given to their continental competitors. Mr. Bennett was again elected Vice-Chairman.

At the Counter.

THE following come from the North-West of London:—"Salts of sorrow," "fanaticine tabloids," and "manauveer [vinolia] powder."

A LEEDS PRESCRIPTION.—"10 grains of supelment, 10½ grains of sweet markery, 1 dram of billy crocer, mix them in 24 pills with buck thorn suyrup."

LADY (to chemist): "Do you keep Homocea 'for removing stains from linen, &c.'?" It appeared that the lady had seen it advertised for "instantly touching the spot."

A MIDDLESBOROUGH chemist sends us the following written order received by him: "Please give the bearer 3*l*. off cold chicken wine for rheumatics." The bearer got vin. colchici.

THE doctor said she was in a semi-comatose state. When the servant brought the prescription to the Aberdeen chemist who was to dispense it the latter asked if there was anything the matter with his mistress, a very old lady. "I am afraid so," replied the man; "the doctor says she is in a semi-comical condition."

Trade Reports.

42 CANNON STREET, E.C., March 5.

BUSINESS has been steady this week, but without many changes, and the alterations which took place at to-day's drug-sales were mostly in the direction of lower rates, contrary to the experience of the past two months. In fine chemicals there are scarcely any alterations. Quinine is quite neglected. Citric and tartaric acids unchanged. Cream of tartar again about 1s. 6d. easier. Carbolic acid unaltered. In drugs, the chief features of interest are the continued rises in cod-liver oil, and the strong advance in cardamoms at to-day's auctions. Common *asafoetida* was much lower. Aloes steady for all varieties. Siam gum benzoin somewhat easier. Buchu leaves 1d. lower. Balsam Peru tending easier. Copaiba and tolu very firm. Camphor fluctuating, but reported dearer; refined unchanged. Colocynth remains firm. Calumba and cuscus are lower. Coca-leaves scarce. Ergot of rye easier. Gamboge about 5s. down. Galls very firm. Honey has an easier tendency. Jalap steady. Carthagena *ipecacuanha* somewhat easier. Rio root unchanged. Insect flowers are still rising. Kola-nuts quiet. Myrrh slightly easier. Musk neglected. Castor oil very firm. Essential oils quiet. Star-anise, however, is tending somewhat higher. Orris-root steady. Quassia sold cheaply to-day. Rhubarb unaltered. Tinnevelly senna quiet. Soy and scammony easier. Vanilla dull of sale. Beeswax dearer for Jamaican. In articles related to the drug branch there are few changes to report. Shellac is quiet and closes dull. Considerable business has been done in Zanzibar cloves at steady prices. Jamaica ginger is also dearer; other spices quiet. Sulphate of copper is much higher. Arsenic and permanganate of potash remain scarce. Quicksilver unaltered. In oils the principal changes are as follows:—Linseed easier at 19s. to 19s. 6d.; rape unchanged at 23s. for crude, refined 24s. to 24s. 9d.; cottonseed oil slow of sale, 14s. 6d. for crude, 16s. 9d. to 17s. 3d. for refined; fine Ceylon cocoa-nut oil has advanced to 23s.; fine Cochin also dearer at 27s.; Lagos palm oil unaltered; olive oils about 1d. easier all round; turpentine dull at 20s. per cwt.; petroleum flat at 5½d. to 6¼d. for American, and 5¾d. to 5½d. for Russian. The Bank rate remains 2 per cent. Bar silver is a shade easier at 31½d. per oz.

Our New York correspondent cables on Thursday evening, March 5:—All *Copaiba* balsams are tending upwards, available stocks having run very low, as the bulk of the recent arrivals has been taken off the market. Genuine *Tolu* balsam is quoted at 44c. *Sassafras* root firmer; 10c. is now the bottom price. *Jalap* and *Honduras sarsaparilla* are a shade lower. *Opium* extremely strong at \$2.15 per lb. for fair druggists' kinds. *Menthol* weaker at \$4.10 per lb.

Our Bergen correspondent, telegraphing on Thursday afternoon, states that the weather has considerably improved in the Lofoden district, but that the fishing still yields bad results. The total catch of fish in the Lofoden up to the present is 3,000,000, against 17,000,000 at the corresponding date of last year. The output of unrefined oil, so far, has been 1,200 barrels, against 5,500 in 1895. The market is firm, but the quotations remain unchanged.

Our Amsterdam correspondent writes on March 2:—“It was made known to-day that the February shipments from Java of cinchona-bark amounted to about 546,000 Amsterdam lbs., against 756,000 lbs. last year. This makes for January-February, 1896, 1,516,000 lbs., against 1895, 1,413,000 lbs.; 1894, 1,351,000 lbs.; and 1893, 1,255,000 lbs. Our next sale will contain about 6,000 packages of bark, and the stock in first hand, all told, is now about 15,100 packages.

ACID (SALICYLIC).—A good demand is reported, and numerous contracts are said to have been lately made for forward delivery. It is thought that if the price of carbolic acid continues to advance an increase will have to be made in the salicylic quotations.

ACID (TARTARIC).—Quiet. The English makers' price remains 1s. 3d. per lb. for B.P.; foreign can be had at from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 2½d. per lb., according to holder. At to-day's auctions 34 bags *Cape argol* sold at from 50s. for dark to 60s. for medium pink.

ALOES.—No *East Indian* aloes was offered to-day. Privately good *Socotrine* has been sold at 87s. 6d. per cwt. Of *Cape* aloes 21 packages were offered, but only 5 sold at 20s. to 21s., for fair, partly drossy. This shows no alteration in price. *Curaçao* aloes is steady, and in fair demand. Of 248 packages, 86 realised 40s. per cwt. for good bright liver; from 20s. to 26s. for brown to fair, and from 17s. down to 12s. for damaged and ordinary common. Ten boxes fair capey so-called *Barbados* realised 15s. per cwt.

ASAFOETIDA.—Much lower: 773 cases from the Persian Gulf were offered to-day, and about 200 of these were pressed upon the market at a decline of from 8s. to 12s. per cwt.; fair, partly blocky, almondy, at 50s. to 52s. 6d.; dark to medium dull block, partly pinky and stony, at from 25s. to 32s. 6d.

ATROPINE SULPHATE is rather scarce: the makers ask from 7s. 6d. to 7s. 9d. per oz., and there seems to be a prospect of advanced rates shortly.

BALSAMS.—*Copaiba* balsam tending rather firmer, 1s. 11d. to 2s. being asked for good bright *Maranham*. At auction 3 packages were bought in at 2s. Eight packages *Maracaibo* were bought in at 1s. 11d. per lb. for bright red-brown, and 1s. 8d. for fair brown with some sediment. Two cases balsam *Peru* were bought in at 8s. 6d.; 8s. 3d. would no doubt be accepted. Fourteen packages good hard *Tolu* were bought in from 2s. to 2s. 3d. per lb.

BENZOIN.—*Siam* gum in fairly large supply: 13 cases out of 18 offered were sold, mostly without reserve, at rather easier rates—viz., 20l. per cwt. for medium to bold loose, rather reddish almonds; 11l. for good small to medium bright almonds, and siftings, partly in block, partly detached; 57s. 6d. for dull brown woody siftings in block; and 42s. 6d. for dull grey ditto. Of *Sumatra* benzoin about 160 packages were offered, of which 60 sold at 8l. 10s. for good seconds, small to medium almonds, very slightly false packed; 7l. to 7l. 5s. for false packed fair almondy centres; 6l. 2s. 6d. to 6l. 5s. for dull false packed, with few almonds; and 70s. for ordinary common brown. *Palembang* was all bought in, a bid of 34s. being refused for good quality.

BUCHU.—The market is now much over-supplied. No fewer than 95 packages were offered to-day, of which 79 found buyers at an average decline of ¾d. to 1d. per lb., good round green selling at 3½d. to 3¾d. (one lot, subject to approval, at 3d.), yellowish and stalky at from 2d. to 3d. per lb. For a parcel of partly dull, partly bright, narrow green leaves, 5d. per lb. was paid.

CALUMBA.—Rather easier, 100 bags partly dark mixed sorts selling at from 8s. 6d. to 9s. per cwt.

CAMPHOR (CRUDE) is firmer. Last Friday the syndicate are reported to have purchased no fewer than about 1,500 piculs for February-April shipment at from 182s. 6d. up to 185s. c.i.f. for *Japan*, and from 165s. to 168s. c.i.f. for *Formosa*. Since then no business has transpired, but the market has been fluctuating.

CARDAMOMS.—The general expectation that a further rise would be witnessed at to-day's auctions was realised, the bulk of the small supply of 77 packages being sold with

excellent competition, at an average advance of 3d. to 4d. per lb., and occasionally at even higher rates. The following prices were paid:—*Malabar*, fair pale round medium, 2s. 2d. to 2s. 4d.; slightly smaller, 2s. per lb. *Ceylon-Mysore*, medium plump yellow, 2s. 9d.; medium long pale, 2s. 4d. to 2s. 5d.; small to medium ditto, 2s. 1d. to 2s. 3d.; small to medium brown, 1s. 11d. to 2s.; ordinary brown and specky, 1s. 7d.; very small pale, 1s. 9d. per lb.

CINCHONA.—Several parcels of South American cinchona barks were offered at auction to-day, and partly sold:—39 bales *Maracaibo* realised 5½d. per lb. for fair, and from 2d. to 5½d. per lb. for more or less damaged quality. Two bales *Cartagena* bark were bought in at 1s. per lb. Of cultivated yellow *Calisaya* 11 packages, out of 31 offered, sold at 1s. 2d. per lb. for good bright sound orange, 11d. per lb. for damaged, and 5½d. per lb. for common damaged dull flat bark. A parcel of *Lora* sold rather cheaply, fair bright quill 12d.; broken and dusty ditto, 9½d. to 10½d. per lb. Good *Guayaquil* bark was bought in at 1s. 6d. per lb., and 13 serons *Huanoco* sold at 8d. to 8½d. per lb.

COCOA-BUTTER.—Five hundred 2 cwt. cases of *Cadbury's* brand sold at auction this week at from 12½d. up to 13½d. per lb., the opening price being lower, with a steady market at the close. At auction in Amsterdam 70 tons of *Van Houten's* sold at an average of 68.19c. per half-kilo., the tone being steady.

COCA-LEAVES of good quality are scarce and inquired for. *Green Truxillo* offer at 1s., c.i.f. terms. On our market good qualities are very scarce, and for fine bright *Truxillo* 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d. per lb. would be the price. At auction 10 bales very common dark brown damaged leaves were bought in at 1s. per lb.

COPPER SULPHATE.—The firmness mentioned in our last report has since become accentuated, and the makers' prices have been advanced from 1l. to 2l. all round, to-day's quotation for "Anchor" being 18l., "Macclesfield" 20l. from the makers. In second hand "Macclesfield" might be had at 19l., and the other brands might also be shaded. It is said that the "Mint" and other London makes are extremely scarce for the moment, makers having some difficulty in supplying the contracts entered into. The rise is partly due to the advance in copper, partly to the lively demand for the sulphate, and partly to the circumstance that considerable speculative sales are believed to have been made which must now be covered.

CUBES.—Five bags fair small sifted berries from Singapore sold to-day at 32s. 6d. per cwt.

CUSCUS-ROOT.—Much lower, 153 bales being sold without reserve to-day at from 5s. 6d. to 6s. 6d. per cwt. for chumpy and ordinary quality; a damaged lot realised only 4s. per cwt.

DAMIANA-LEAVES.—Firm. A few bales, quality not stated, are offering on the spot at 6d., but the general quotation is from 7d. to 8½d. per lb.

ERGOT-OF-RYE.—A large quantity was offered to-day, the total being about 132 packages, 27 of these sold at a decline of about 1d. per lb., at from 4½d. to 5d. for ordinary wormy *Russian*. *Spanish* ergot was all bought in at from 9d. for common up to 9½d. for good bold new.

GALLS.—There have been some sales lately of fair blue *Persian* galls at 54s. per cwt. Green are quoted at from 42s. 6d. to 47s. 6d. per cwt. *Japanese* higher, with buyers at 53s. 6d., c.i.f. Continent for February-March steamer. At auction 25 cases *Japan* galls were bought in at 56s. per cwt.

GAMBOGE.—In rather small supply, only about 12 cases being offered. Transactions in this article were confined to one case of bright broken orange pipe, which sold at 9l. 15s., a decline of about 5s.

GELSEMIUM-ROOT is quoted higher, at 23s. per cwt., c.i.f.

GLYCERINE.—Very quiet. Makers' quotations remain unchanged, and, in second hand, double distilled, s.g. 1.260, is obtainable at 68s. to 69s.

GUM ACACIA.—A few transactions have lately taken place privately at from 52s. 6d. to 55s. per cwt. for good soft pale *Soudan* sorts. The stock of so-called insoluble *Persian* gum is heavy, but rather firmly held. Fine pale picked is quoted at 24s. per cwt. Ten bales of good, partly dusty, *Soudan*

sorts, from Suez, slightly mixed with hard, sold at 62s. 6d. per cwt., and 6 packages fair grey picked Trieste gum at from 127s. 6d. up to 132s. 6d. per cwt., while for brown picked 85s. was accepted. These lots sold without reserve.

GUM AMMONIACUM easier. Of 24 packages 6 sold, at 30s. per cwt. for partly blocky small to medium yellow drop, and at from 17s. to 20s. for common dark blocky with a few almonds. A parcel of fine detached yellow drop was bought in at 60s. per cwt.

GUM TRAGACANTH.—In strong demand, but prices remain unchanged, though firm. *Persian* first white druggists' at 15l., seconds from 13l. to 14l. 10s. *Smyrna*, firsts 12l., seconds 11l. per cwt.

HONEY.—Rather easier; 6 kegs dull orange candied *Chilian* realised 21s., and a better parcel was bought in at 40s. Of *Jamaican* honey 76 packages were offered, of which 24 sold, mostly without reserve, at from 19s. to 20s. for candied of mixed colours. For 4 casks fine pale candied *New Zealand* honey from Lyttelton 45s. per cwt. was paid.

INSECT-FLOWERS.—Eleven bales of open flowers were bought in to-day at 130s. per cwt. nominally; 9 kegs of powder were taken out without mention of price. The Trieste market is still rising.

IPECACUANHA is steadily held. The principal feature at to-day's auctions was the offering of some 19 bales of the extremely woody *Brazilian* root which caused such a prolonged controversy a couple of years ago, and was believed to have been all disposed of. This parcel sold mostly at 3s. per lb. Of other *Rio* root 39 bales offered, of which 9 sold at 5s. 5d. to 5s. 7d. per lb. for good stout sound to slightly damaged root, and from 5s. 4d. down to 5s. for leaner ditto. *Carthagenia* bark is about 2d. lower, 7 packages selling at 3s. 10d. to 3s. 11d. for second-class damaged.

JABORANDI.—The parcel of 42 bales to which we referred in our last issue has been sold in Liverpool on private terms. The quality was good.

JALAP.—Steady, but little business was done, no fewer than 89 packages were offered, but only 2 sold, at 8d. per lb. for good *Vera Cruz*.

KOLA NUTS.—Dull of sale. One box of ordinary *West Indian* selling cheaply at 5d. per lb. Fair to good washed *African* were bought in at 8d. to 1s. per lb.

LIQUORICE.—Some business has been done in ordinary rough *Persian* at steady rates, good grades being quoted at 7s. 6d. to 8s., while for decorticated 20s. per cwt. is nominally asked. Good *Russian* decorticated offers at 28s. 6d. per cwt., c.i.f. Stettin.

MUSK.—Scarcely anything was offered at the auctions, 7 tins *Tonquin* pods being bought in at 70s. per oz. for small to bold pods, good grey skin and under skin. For fine blue and grey thin skin pods 75s. is asked.

MYRRH.—In large supply. Of 87 packages only 3 sold at a decline of about 2s. 6d. per cwt., viz. 75s. to 77s. 6d. (subject) for somewhat dark native picked. Fine pale selected was bought in at 5l. to 5l. 10s. per cwt.

OIL (ALMOND).—The *English* manufacturers of sweet almond oil from peach kernels have raised the price 1d. per lb., their quotation now being 10d.

OIL (CASTOR) remains very firm, Italian having further advanced slightly in consequence of the scarcity of the seed. The present quotation for tasteless oil is 31s. 6d. per cwt., c.i.f. *French* oil is quoted at 20l. 15s. per ton for firsts, 20l. for seconds, f.o.b.

OIL (COD-LIVER) has further advanced. The fishing-season will soon be drawing to a close, and up to the present there is not the slightest prospect of any turn for the better in the output. According to the official report the production of cod-liver oil in the Lofoden district up to the end of February was as follows:—

	1893	1895	1894	1893
Hectolitres	400	1,664	2,713	5,407

In the districts outside Lofoden scarcely any oil has been produced this year. The output of cod-liver oil in

hectolitres in the winter districts—i.e., those where fishing takes place before the boats go to Lofoden—has been

1893	1895	1894
£43	1,170	3,574

In Vesteraalen and Senjan fishing has also been extremely poor, and the weather is very stormy. The condition of livers shows no improvement. In London a considerable business has been done in old *Norwegian* oil at prices rising from 190s. to 200s. for fine quality. Of the new oil, several parcels, to come forward, have also been sold on the basis of from 220s. up to 240s. per barrel, c.i.f. terms. At auction one cask of *Newfoundland* oil was offered. It is said to have been sold privately. Business in good *Newfoundland* oil is reported at 6s. 6d. per gallon spot, but more money is now required.

OILS (ESSENTIAL).—*Citronella* oil is firm on the spot; possibly 1s. 11d. per lb. might buy oil of good quality, standing the usual test, but in several quarters 2s. is asked. For shipment the quotation is 1s. 10d. per lb., c.i.f. February to June. *Cassia* oil quiet, at 8s. per lb. for 70 per cent. to 75 per cent. oil on the spot. The offers for forward shipment are mostly much above the current market value of spot oil. *Lemongrass* oil is quiet, at 2½d. per oz. *Star-anise* is said to be somewhat firmer at 10s. per lb., though possibly 9s. 9d. might still be accepted. At to-day's auctions a parcel of Japanese "refined" *Camphor* oil was bought in at 50s. per cwt.; 3 cases of *Ylang Ylang* were bought in at 5s. per oz. For 40-per-cent. Japanese *Peppermint* oil 6s. 6d. per lb. is asked. Nine cases "*Platypus*" *Eucalyptus globulus* oil were bought in at 2s. 4d. per lb., 27 cases of other brands at 10½d. to 1s. 9d. per lb. One case of Western Australian *Sandalwood* oil was bought in at 9s. per lb. For fine English *Peppermint* oil 30s. to 32s. per lb. is asked. *Oil of Caraway* tending higher, at 6s. to 6s. 3d. per lb. for English. Two cases *Cinnamon bark* oil were bought in at 8d. per oz.

OPUM.—The London market remains exceedingly firm, but the advanced price asked by holders stands in the way of large transactions. Fine *Persian* bricks have been sold at 13s., and there is little to be had now at that figure, although common kinds are quoted at 11s. 3d. per lb. For good to fine shipping the quotation runs from 11s. 9d. to 13s., for good to fine *Smyrna* from 8s. 9d. to 9s. 9d., and for *Constantinople* grades from 8s. 6d. to 9s. 3d. per lb.

ORRIS.—Eight packages of fine bright *Florentine* were offered at auction to-day, and bought in. The price asked for them is 75s. per cwt. An unusually large quantity of *Aden* orris, consisting of 301 bales, was offered to-day, and all bought in—fair to lean dark at 30s.; ordinary at from 20s. to 27s. 6d. per cwt.

PICHI.—A very heavy consignment of 54 packages pichi herb, said to be of good quality, has just arrived from Chili. This is probably more than sufficient to supply the world's requirements for a year at least.

QUASSIA.—Eight tons of logs sold cheaply without reserve to-day at 77s. 6d. per ton, and 1 ton of chips, also without reserve, at 6l. 15s. per ton; another parcel of chips was bought in, 11l. being the price.

QUININE has been almost a dead letter this week, 1s. 1¼d. per oz. is the nearest quotation for second-hand *German* in bulk, but no business is reported.

RESORCIN.—Although this article is now comparatively little used, it is of interest to note that an advance has recently been made in the price, up to 5s. 9d. per lb. being now required for it, whereas quite lately it was offering at about 5s.

RHATANIA.—Four bales of good quality realised 9d. per lb. to-day.

RHUBARB.—Although the demand privately is said to be very good (no fewer than 140 cases being delivered from the warehouse last month), scarcely any transactions took place at to-day's auctions. About 100 cases were almost all bought in; 3 packages *High-dried* sold at 7d. to 8½d. for flat wormy, poor in colour, and at 5d. for round very wormy.

SARSAPARILLA.—In small supply. Only 1 bale of red native *Jamaican* sold at 11d. per lb. to-day. Ten bales of *East Indian* *sarsaparilla* (*Smilax*) realised ¾d. per lb.

SCAMMONY.—Fine virgin resin is in very small supply, the quotation being still from 30s. to 32s. per lb.; other kinds are not offering, except "*Skillipe*," which is quoted from 5s. 6d. to 10s. per lb. At auction to-day easier limits were mentioned—viz., 30s. per lb. for *Virgin*, and at 26s. per lb. for seconds.

SEEDS (VARIOUS).—The following parcels of seeds were offered at auction to-day:—*Coriander*, 70 bales, dull shelly. *East Indian* were bought in at 9s. 6d. per cwt. Thirty bags wormy *Arcea* nuts sold without reserve at 8s. 6d. per cwt. For 20 bags rather ordinary *Spanish aniseed* a bid of 27s. was refused, 30s. being the price, and for 25 cases *Chinese star-anise* 95s. is required; while another lot of 14 cases very broken and without aroma was bought in at 25s. per cwt. The 25 packages fair *Madras annatto seeds* were bought in at 3d. per lb. For 14 bags fair *Maltese cumin* 33s. 6d. was accepted, damaged quality selling at 30s. Five bales *Stavesacre seeds* were bought in at 90s. per cwt.

SENNA.—There has been a fair inquiry lately for good *Alexandrian* leaf. Selected is quoted at 9d. to 10d., broken at 4d. to 6d., and sorts at 2d. to 3d. Pods are quite neglected at from 4d. to 5d. per lb. *Alexandrian pods* sold to-day at 3¼d. per lb. *Tinevelly* leaves in comparatively small supply, the quality being generally undesirable. About 300 bales were mostly sold at from 1d. for common small specky up to ¼d. per lb. for good bright green.

SHELLAC.—At the end of last week business was done at a somewhat lower rate, 92s. c.i.f. being accepted for 300 cases second *Orange T.N.*, April-June shipment. At auction 358 cases sold at unaltered rates: fair worked second orange, 97s.; ordinary red to fair bright free, unworked, 90s. to 98s.; very fine pale unworked, 107s.; fine resinous bold *Button*, 108s. to 109s. On the spot fair *T.N. Orange* is quoted at 98s.; *A.C. Garnet*, 92s. per cwt. Since the auctions there has been a fair business on the spot, at steady prices.

SOY.—One of the features of to-day's auctions was the sale without reserve of some large parcels of soy. They sold at a decline of from 1d. to 2d. per gallon. Of 233 casks good thick *Chinese*, 142 casks sold at 10d. per gallon (one lot 10½d. per gallon). Ninety-four casks thin *Japanese* soy realised from 4½d. to 6½d. per gallon.

SPICES.—*Ginger*: The new crop of *Jamaica* ginger is now arriving freely, but the quality so far is very poor. Shipments have been hurried on several weeks before the usual time on account of the high prices prevailing. No fine root has been offered yet. At auction, on Tuesday, 441 barrels were mostly sold at steady to higher rates; common dark and small mixed *Rhatoon*, 62s. to 66s. 6d.; medium dull washed, 84s. to 85s. per cwt. *Cochin* quiet and rather easier. At auction almost everything was bought in. *Pimento* has been quieter this week, with sales at 2¼d. to 2½d. for medium to good clean. *Zanzibar cloves* active and higher. At auction from 2d. to 2½d. was paid for ordinary dull to good bright. Privately sales have been made up to 2½d. for June-August delivery. Twenty-six packages fine picked *Japan capsicums* sold at 46s. to 52s. per cwt. *Mace*, *Nutmegs* and *Pepper* remain very quiet.

TURMERIC.—Steady, but quiet. In good finger *Madras* some business has been done at 9s. 6d. per cwt.; fair *Bengal* is quoted at 7s. 6d. per cwt. At auction to-day 66 bags *Madras* finger were bought in at 8s. 9d. per cwt., and 21 bags bright yellow finger at 8s. per cwt.

TURPENTINE (CHIO).—One case of fair quality sold cheaply at 2s. 7d. per lb. The market quotation runs from 8s. to 10s. per lb.

VANILLA was in fair supply, but the demand has slackened off, and only a small part sold, but good qualities brought steady prices: fine, 7 inch to 8 inch, 25s. to 28s.; 4 inch to 7½ inch, 20s. to 26s. 6d.; fair small chocolate, 15s. to 18s., and common kinds from 7s. 6d. down to 6s. per lb.

VARIOUS DRUGS.—The following parcels of drugs of minor interest were offered to-day:—*Civet*: 6 horns of weak flavour bought in. *Cantharides*: 17 cases fair, partly wormy, Chinese, bought in at 1s. to 1s. 2d. per lb. *Chiretta*: 12 bales partly bought in at 4d. per lb. for fair quality; 3 bales were sold privately. *Cascara sagrada*: 60 bags, fair quality, bought in at 21s. 6d. per cwt. *Castorum*: 4 packages (about

185 lbs.), rather damp and of weak aroma, bought in at 80s. per lb. for firsts and seconds mixed, 60s. for seconds, and 45s. per lb. for pickings. *Nutmeg*: 25 cases fair Manila bought in. *Galbanum*: 2 bags fair dry gum bought in at 1s. 3d. per lb. *Galangal*: 50 bales fair bright bought in at 22s. per cwt. *Kamala*, tending easier; 3 cases of fair quality bought in at 9½d. per lb. *Jaborandi*: for 4 bales low brown stalky leaves, offered without reserve, no bid could be obtained. *Lime juice*: 3 hogheads fair dark but clean W.I. bought in at 1s. 3d. per gallon. *Menthol*: 3 cases "Cockings" brand bought in at 17s. per lb. *Orange-peel*: a large quantity bought in, good thin Malta strips at 9d. to 9½d. per lb., good Tripoli at 10d. per lb. *Squill*: 46 bags bought in, good at 4d., yellow to fair at 1½d. to 3½d. per lb. *Tonca beans*: 12 packages Pará bought in; for good frosted 1s. 11d. per lb. is asked; ordinary dull are held at 10d. per lb.

WAX (BEES').—Firm and in strong demand, especially for *Jamaican*, which sold at an advance of from 5s. to 7s. 6d. per lb., from 8l. 2s. 6d. to 8l. 15s. being paid for ordinary to fine bright yellow. *Australian* in fair supply, 7l. 10s. being paid for mixed colours. *Madagascar*: about 50 packages, partly without reserve, sold at 6l. 17s. 6d. to 7l. for fair bright. For good pale grey *Californian* 7l. 2s. 6d. is required. *Spanish* sold at 6l. 17s. 6d., another lot being bought in at 7l. 5s. *Italian* was bought in at the same price. Pale bleached *East Indian* sold at from 6l. 12s. 6d. to 6l. 15s. per cwt.

WAX (JAPAN).—Rather easier on the spot. Good pale squares offer at 33s. 6d. per cwt. Forty cases of good pale squares were bought in to-day at 35s. per cwt.

Heavy Chemicals.

The quietness referred to in our last report is still in the main unaltered, though the actual business transacted is a shade heavier. All things taken into consideration, the general tone of the market for the time of the year is distinctly better than for some years past. Orders for prompt deliveries are not quite so numerous as manufacturers would like, but future prospects are hopeful. Dyers and calico printers as well as carpet manufacturers, papermakers, &c., are fully employed, causing a fairly steady demand for a number of chemical products. In specific values scarcely any changes can be notified. *Bichromates of potash and soda* are moving steadily at combination prices, but a general feeling is prevalent that manufacturers will ere long decide upon making an advance, so that dealers are for the most part covering their forward requirements to the utmost limit. *Bleaching-powder* and *Caustic soda* are fairly brisk at old rates, more especially for export. *Hyposulphite* dull, and still further lowering tendency in price. *Soda crystals* meet with good inquiry, and the position of *Saltcake* shows a slight improvement. *Chlorates of potash and soda* quiet. *Yellow prussiates* steady. The scarcity in *Arsenic* still continues, and quotations are only nominal, there being little or nothing to be obtained for prompt delivery. Forward requirements are being steadily booked at good prices. In *Tar products* generally a firm tone is prevalent with the exception of *Benzols*, which are rather dull; 90's are now quoted 1s. 11d. to 2s., and 50-90's 1s. 8d. *Solvent and crude coal-tar naphtha* are in brisk demand. *Aniline Oil* and *Salt* steady. *Anthracene*, both A and B grades, a trifle higher, current quotations being 11½d. to 1s. for the former, and 9½d. to 10d. for the latter. Value of *Pitch* still continues very low, though a slightly firmer tendency is at present apparent consequent on a rather better demand. *Sulphate of copper* dearer, Anchor 17l. 15s., and Liverpool 18l. *Sulphate of ammonia* continues very dull, Leith 8l. 7s. 6d., London and Hull 8l. 8s. 9d., Beckton terms 8l. 6s. 3d.

Liverpool Drug-market.

Our Liverpool correspondent, writing on March 4, reports that in *Gum Acacia* sorts scarcely any business has been done, buyers being indifferent. Holders, on the other hand, have not shown any disposition to make marked reductions in their quotations. *Brazil* and *Niger* gums are alike quiet, but medium qualities remain very scarce here. *Fenugreek seeds* are held firmly at 7l. 10s. to 8l. for prime Bombay. *Honeys* have been in better supply during the week, but on change has taken place in values to quotable extent. A parcel of fine yellow Mexican has arrived, and will be offered

at auction shortly. Eight bales of *Jaborandi-leaves* were offered at auction to-day, but met with no buyers. *Galls* are in small supply, and best blues are held for about 55s. *Castor-oil* is very firmly held indeed at 2½d. for good seconds Calcutta, 2½d. first-pressure French, and 2½d. for Madras, and notwithstanding the arrival of 1,200 cases of good seconds Calcutta by the *Logician* holders are very firm in their views. *African ginger* has advanced further and sales have been made up to 24s. 6d. on the spot, and the same price is asked to arrive. *Sulphate of copper* has been selling in very large quantities for export; 19l. 10s. has been realised for one line of 50 tons, and now makers want 20l. *Kola-nuts* are in fair supply, sales of fresh have been made at 7d.; ordinary, 5d. to 8d. *Beeswax* is the turn in sellers' favour, Chilean is held for 7l. 15s. to 8l. 10s., according to quality.

The Hamburg Drug-market.

Our correspondent writes, under date of March 3:—"Business in general continues very quiet with us, partly owing to the cold weather, which has much impeded the navigation in the interior. Our drug-market is also quiet, and prices have not changed much since last week. *Antimony* is unaltered, quiet; crude is quoted at 33m.; regulus, 65m. per 100 kilos. *Arsenic* steady, at 45m. to 46m. per 100 kilos. for white lump. *Acid (carbolic)* is unchanged, at 160m. to 162m. per 100 kilos. for 40 per cent. *Acid (tartaric)*, 270m. to 275m. per 100 kilos, firm. *Balsam copaiba* unaltered, at 3.45m. per kilo. prime quality. *Balsam Peru* unchanged since last week, at 17½m. to 18m. per kilo. *Camphor (refined)* is again a little easier and offering cheaper; to-day's quotation is 450m. per 100 kilos. *Cantharides (Russian)*, 4.25m. per kilo. *Cascara sagrada* is quiet, at 42m. per 100 kilos. *Menthol* is quiet, forward delivery offered at 27m. per kilo. *Oil (cod liver)* continues very firm, owing to bad reports from Norway. 1896 non-congealing oil is scarce. To-day's price is 205m. to 215m.; 1895, 195m. per barrel. *Linseed oil* flat, spot barrels 39½m. per 100 kilos.; March-June, 40m. per 100 kilos., including barrels. *Cottonseed oil (refined)* neglected, spot barrels, 34.25m.; May-August, 35.50m. per 100 kilos. *Oils (essential)*: *Citronella* oil firm, at 4.50m. per kilo. *Peppermint oil*, HGH, unchanged, at 9½m. per lb. *Peppermint oil*, Japan, 11m. per kilo. *Star-anise* oil quiet, at 23½m. per kilo. *Clove oil*, 4.10m. per kilo. *Spermaceti* quiet, at 325m. per 100 kilos. *Sugar of milk* steady, at 160m. to 165m. per 100 kilos. *Sabadilla-seed* is firmer again; to-day's price is 240m. per 100 kilos. *Wax (Japan)* steady, at 70m. to 70.50m. per 100 kilos. *Wax (Carnauba)* more freely offering, buyers holding back: grey, quoted at 205m.; fine yellow, 240m. per 100 kilos. *Ergot of rye* quiet: Russian, 98m. to 103m.; German, 105m. to 107m.; Spanish, 136m. per 100 kilos. *Kola-nuts* quiet, at 105m. to 130m. per 100 kilos."

The Smyrna Opium-market.

Writing on February 22, our correspondent states:—"Most of our purchases this week have been made by local speculators for account of dealers in the interior who, owing to severe continued frosts which are said to have destroyed the opium plantations, expect to see high prices later on. If the injury to the crop is as great as is made out, we consider our present prices low; but, on the other hand, if we have an average autumn, prices will decline again by next summer from 7s. to 7s. 6d. per lb., according to quality. The purchases for account of consumers amount to about 55 cases. The business during the week has been: Twenty-eight cases *Yerli tale quale*, maximum price 8s. 4d.; 75 cases *Current ditto*, maximum 8s. 3d.; 7 cases *Slightly seconds*, maximum 8s. 4d.; and 14 cases extra-examined *Current tale quale*, maximum price 8s. 6d. per lb. Our present first and second hand stock is about 2,500 cases." Another Smyrna correspondent writes on February 22: "We have had a very exciting week, during which the reports have poured in from the growing districts, all stating that serious damage had been done to the growing crop. The sales here have amounted to 125 cases, mostly *current tale quale* at the parity of 7s. 6d. up to 8s. *Yerli tale quale* has sold at 7s. 8½d. rising to 8s. 3d., and selected opium at 8s. to 8s. 3d. per lb. All opium interests have taken part in these transactions, about 50 cases of the total having been taken by speculators, the rest in execution of American and Continental orders. I am almost inclined to think, however, that the reports of damage have been much exaggerated."



Memoranda for Correspondents.

In letters for publication correspondents are requested to express their views as concisely as possible.

Correspondents should write on one side of the paper only, and devote a separate piece of paper to each subject of inquiry.

The name and address of the writer should accompany all communications, with, if desired, a distinctive nom-de-plume.

Wholesale Houses, Agents, and Discounts.

Mr. H. B. Sleeman, of India House, Leadenhall Street, has communicated with us in reference to a letter signed "Bombay Chemists" which appeared in this journal last week under the above title. Mr. Sleeman has represented one of the large Bombay drug-houses in London for the past thirty years, and he wishes us to make it clear that the letter had no reference to him or to the firm he represents. We have pleasure in stating that it had not.

SIR,—We are right glad to see this question raised in your columns. Last November an indent was sent to us by a merchant in this country asking us to quote prices and terms. The order was confirmed, but on condition that the discount was *not* declared on the invoice. We declined to accept the order, believing that our customer would expect to get the goods on our best terms. If this letter should meet the eye of the indenter we should be glad to hear from him.

All persons abroad sending orders to this country should advise manufacturers or wholesale houses interested. If our friend who sent the order referred to above had advised us he would have had all his order executed by ourselves and on our terms.

Yours, &c.,

MAY, ROBERTS & CO.

9 & 11 Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C.

Anti-cutting.

SIR,—Referring Mr. J. Reid's letter, we give below our reasons for wishing makers' price of their specialities to be high.

I. And mainly, because we think $16\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. (which would be the gain if our suggested prices were adopted) quite sufficient profit on articles that can be obtained from grocers, &c., along with ourselves.

II. We think we are right in saying that it was the 30 per cent. profit, that Mr. Reid writes about, that induced cutting, and we think it good policy to obviate the temptation.

III. As the cost and onus of protecting the prices would rest with the maker, we think it proper that he should be well remunerated for his outlay.

To Mr. Humphry's query we would say that we think it would be our best policy in the long run to charge credit customers the fixed prices only. Their accounts must contain other articles besides patents, surely?

Yours faithfully,

Brighouse, February 28.

S. CARDWELL & SON.

SIR,—We seem to be undergoing one of the inevitable conditions of evolution, a new order of things taking the place of the old. We chemists ought to do more than quietly watch this change of events which is sapping the life-blood out of the business; more than that, the muscle and viscera are attacked by such an atrophy that soon only the skeleton of what once was substantial will be left to the qualified chemist. From time to time some new conception is unfolded, and is as quickly folded up again, and we go on suggesting, and imploring manufacturers and wholesalers to help us. Some have complied, but no universally workable scheme has been proposed yet. In the patent-medicine trade the chemist is neither the manufacturer's best friend

nor his largest customer; the advertisements beautify our newspapers and render our landscapes hideous, but so long as the confiding British Public read what is set forth, and act on the advice, the manufacturer's end is gained, and whether the B.P. purchases at chemist's, grocer's, or store is quite immaterial to him. The cheaper the preparation can be obtained the more the proprietor likes it; he knows very well that there exists a class of chemists on the alert to push their own specialities in the place of those asked for. Grocers do not do that because they have nothing of their own to substitute; busy stores do not do it because they have not the time. Yet we are almost on our knees to the manufacturer to ask for a scheme of doubtful advantage to him. If it were possible for manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers to federate, mutual advantage would result, but it is unreasonable to expect it; even retail chemists have not learnt how to pull together, our own qualified men are some of the worst offenders: therefore again we are asking the proprietors to scheme for a portion of the trade only. We must either present a united front to the manufacturer, or be prepared to see the patent-medicine trade go into the hands of others, and produce reliable preparations of our own.

Yours truly,

A. F. H. (53/96.)

SIR,—I should like to call the attention of the makers of proprietary articles to the evils of allowing their goods to be sold at cutting-prices, and the injury it does them.

Here is an instance of one out of many. A popular teething powder is advertised at $1s. 1\frac{1}{2}d.$, but in this town one store sells them loose at $7\frac{1}{2}d.$ per dozen by taking 3 dozen, $8\frac{1}{2}d.$ by single dozen. On chemists' small quantities they cost $8s. 8d.$ net. What is the result? I recommend my own powders whenever I can, and in twelve cases out of twenty I sell my own powders, and generally manage to keep on selling them.

In the old days, when the advertised prices were kept up, I never thought of selling my own goods in place of other makers.

Yours truly,

SELF-HELP. (22/62.)

SIR,—I think some notice should be taken of the advanced price of some of the patent medicines which have a selling popularity. I see by last list Bunter's nervine is advanced, Seigel's syrup has got to its extreme point giving $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ profit for the chemist, "Homoea" is already very high, Haines' specific selling for 11s. cost 10s. Do the owners of these patents expect the retailer to push these? I should think not. For myself I only recommend those that bear a decent profit, and I have a good substitute for those that do not.

I am, sir, yours obediently,

Cambridge.

M. P. S. (24/43.)

Mr. William Johnstone, of Brixton, writes in reference to the letters which have appeared in this journal criticising the proposal to associate with grocers in the crusade against cutting. "Where," he asks, "does the degradation come in?" He hopes that this "nauseating uppishness" will not poison the minds of any chemists against the Association.

Shops (Early Closing) Bill.

Mr. John L. Doig, 9 High Street, Dundee, writes to express his gratification at the progress which this Bill is making, and says, "In their own interests chemists' assistants throughout the country ought to communicate with their local M.P.s, urging them to use their influence in promoting the passing of a Bill which would be an undoubted benefit to all concerned."

New Zealand.

SIR,—Your correspondent "Platypus" in last week's speaks of New Zealand as "the land of sin, sweat, and sorrow." Can you tell me if that is a quotation, and if so from what source? From my reading of New Zealand I had learned to look upon it as a "happy land, a haven of rest," as happy a place as we degenerate mortals could find in this "sublunary vale of tears." One writer I know, speaking of his sojourn on the

Hutt River, wonders how he can leave such a blissful paradise, and return to this money-grubbing world again.

Froude in "Oceana" says sweet soft airs blow there; that he never saw a man with a dissatisfied face; that it is a working man's paradise. Is this still true?

PELAGOS. (21/16).

Sealing-wax on Bottles.

SIR,—The recent correspondence in your columns about sealing-wax on the tops of bottles recalls to my mind a little incident which occurred during my apprenticeship, now over a quarter of a century since. It was my good fortune—ill fortune I thought it then—to be apprenticed to a most particular, painstaking, and economical master. His economy amounted almost to parsimony. It was during the four and a half years I served as his apprentice that I acquired habits of neatness and carefulness which have stood me in good stead since. Every evidence on my part of economy in the use of material, paper, string, gas, &c., was rewarded by a look or word of approval. One day we had received a large hamper of various kinds of drugs from our wholesale house, containing a dozen or more Winchester quarts, all heavily capped, as was the custom then, with red sealing-wax. True to my training, I felt here was good material likely to be wasted, so I carefully scraped off all the wax from the top of each bottle, and, after heating, I with no little trouble formed a good-sized piece of sealing-wax, which I proudly exhibited to my master to receive his hearty approval, and what was more, the rescued piece of wax was taken in to the "missis," another economical soul, only more so, to receive her approval also.

In my after experience in a large wholesale drug and dry-saltery business, I have seen waste—wilful and wanton—which would have filled my poor old master with horror. Well for me that my training made me able to share the feeling.

Faithfully yours,

SODA CARB. (257/8.)

Imperfect Marking of Goods.

SIR,—A recent stocktaking has emphasised a matter which I have often noticed, and which, I think, is of importance to the trade. I refer to the imperfect marking of many patents and proprietary articles as to the retail prices.

It may, of course, be said that everyone connected with the business should be familiar with all the sizes and prices, but as much of the business (particularly in the larger houses) is done by juniors, doubts and mistakes may often arise.

On many patents the familiar legend "Sold in boxes at 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., and 4s. 6d." may be read, but nothing to indicate the price of the particular article. Again, on a dozen packet the only information you often get is "1 doz. Blank's Balsam, large" or "small" as the case may be, or in some cases the goods are described as "No. 1 size," "No. 2 size," &c., but no price. One article I noticed in particular, a very small and expensive preparation, where the 2s. 9d. size might easily be mistaken for the 1s. 1½d. or the 4s. 6d. size for the 2s. 9d. In this instance the outside packets are carefully labelled "1 doz. 1s. 1½d.," "½ doz. 2s. 9d.," &c., but when opened all identification of the price is lost. In many proprietary articles issued in different sizes there is no indication of price on any of them.

Yours, &c.,

ORDER. (4/45.)

LEGAL QUERIES.

Immediate information on pharmaco-legal matters is available in "Pharmacy and Poison Laws of the United Kingdom," Alpe's "Handy-book of Medicine-stamp Duty," and THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY.

22/55. X. Y. Z.—We cannot form any opinion as to whether the syphons were sold or loaned to you unless we are in possession of all the facts.

R. S. Chew (Calcutta).—We cannot publish or reply to your complaint. You may have overlooked some condition

in the contract. If you or other advertisers think the publisher has not fairly fulfilled his contract, your remedy is to refuse to pay his bill, or if you have paid sue for recovery of the amount.

21/41. W. F. G.—We do not ourselves consider it would be an infringement of the Veterinary Surgeons Act for a person not registered under that Act to describe his place as a canine hospital, and to announce that he treated dogs and cats surgically and medically on the most approved principles. But we cannot say that the College would take the same view as we do, and we should say that a judge who decided against the description "veterinary forge" might with as good reason fine you for using the description you suggest.

78/10. Glasgow.—The case of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland v. Boyd, fully reported in our issue of February 15, shows exactly the legal position of companies in Ireland as regards the Pharmacy Act.

24/11. Chemicus.—We think all the medicines named on the circular would be liable to medicine-stamp duty, because they are described as "specialities." Apart from that, the vegetable and the pectoral pills are, we think, rendered liable by the recommendations. We do not think the other medicines would be regarded as liable, but we advise you to send labels and circular to Somerset House, and get an authoritative opinion about them all.

21/3. Old Subscriber.—We presume most people would understand the term "patronised by Royalty," used in this country, as implying that the British Royal Family had purchased from you. It is a matter of conscience for you. The Serene Highness you name is, we suppose, of royal blood, and therefore the expression would be strictly correct; but we should not adopt it under the circumstances.

MISCELLANEOUS INQUIRIES.

Back numbers containing formulae, educational or other specific information can be obtained from the Publisher.

N.B.—All queries should be accompanied by the business card of a subscriber, or the address label from THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST wrapper. We destroy anonymous letters. We do not answer queries of the kind here dealt with by post. We ask that separate queries shall be written on separate sheets of paper.

77/22. Corkonian (Assam).—You can obtain Vanilla-plants from Thos. Christy & Co., 52 Lime Street, London. You will find a great deal of information on vanilla-culture in back numbers of the C. & D. Vanilla is a crop that requires a great deal of attention. Like all orchids, vanilla requires a moist and rich soil. Volcanic soil is excellent, but clay is too damp and causes the roots to rot. Vanilla grows most rapidly in the shade, but its fruit in that case is less aromatic than when grown in the sun. A plot covered with shrubs about 10 feet high (serving as protectors to the young plants) is the best. Vanilla is planted in cuttings of between 3 and 4 feet long, at 1½ to 2 feet distance. In Mauritius the plants are generally laid down in November and December, before the heavy rains set in. After two years the plant should be 10 to 15 feet high, and about the third year it begins to flower. You will find some further useful information in recent issues of the Kew Bulletin.

20/68. Tavistock.—Solution of borax is used for saturating cotton to make Snuffless Wicks.

11/44. Dublin.—Pipe cleaning Liquid, sold at 6d. per 3 oz. bottle.—This we find to be methylated spirit slightly coloured with caramel and perfumed with oil of rosemary.

8/57. *Nomeni*.—Artificial perfumes, such as musk and heliotropin, do not have a strong odour when dissolved in spirit, and when added to toilet-powder they should be triturated for several minutes with some of the chalk. The artificial musk has the feebler odour, and is most largely used in soap-manufacture, where the trace of free alkali increases the perfume.

12/40 *Aurum*.—We cannot spare the space to describe how gold is assayed, as that is a matter which most of those who want to know will consult a text-book about. See, for example, Clowes and Coleman's "Quantitative Analysis." An adequate description of the process would occupy about a column of our space.

13/8. *Ipecacuanha*.—The stuff is what is commonly sold as "Jack Frost." It is a micaceous material. See the *DIARY Bnyers' Guide* for dealers in it.

12/51. *Notts*.—Meat and Malt-wine.—See *C. & D.*, January 26, 1895, page 165.

12/24. *Carbon*.—There will be no danger in Adding Naphthalene to Paraffin Oil for burning, but it is not likely to add to the luminosity, as the oil is rich enough in carbon.

12/6. *Antipyrin*.—White Embrocation.—See *C. & D.*, February 2, 1895, page 203, and February 9, 1895, page 232.

11/64. *Zinci*.—Children's Soothing-powders.—Some of the popular powders contain a small amount of morphine, along with calomel or antimonial powder, and when given occasionally only they are as safe as anything. As you object to opium in any form, try the following:—

Pulv. potass. bromidi	5j.
Hydrag. subchlorid.	5j.
Pulv. sacch. alb.	5ij.

Mix and sift.

Doses: 2 to 6 months, 2 gr.; 6 to 9 months, 3 gr.; 9 to 15 months, 5 gr.; and $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. more for each additional three months.

11/59. *J. B.*—The Brompton Hospital for Consumption receives non-paying patients for a period not exceeding two months if incurable. See the *DIARY* list of hospitals, and write to the Secretary for particulars. A patient who has been under treatment for two years without relief has little hope of recovery in England.

11/30. *J. J. L.*—(1) Oily Butter colouring is a solution of oil soluble aniline orange in a bland sweet oil, such as cotton-seed oil. (2) Liquid Annatto.—Roll annatto and carbonate of potash, of each 5j.; water, a sufficiency. Cut the annatto into small pieces and pour upon it the potash dissolved in 5 oz. of boiling water. Stir occasionally in the course of a forenoon, then add 10 oz. of water, and boil until the liquid is reduced to 10 oz.; add boric acid 5j., and set aside for a day or two. Decant the clear liquid and strain the rest through a plug of cotton.

11/50. *F. W. E.* (Western Australia).—(1) The Riviera season lasts practically the winter and spring months (November to May), and chemists who employ English assistants engage them in England at the beginning of the season, by advertising in *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST*, if they have not arranged for the return of old hands. It would be the merest chance if you were to get a situation by halting there on your way home from Australia. (2) French and Italian are not necessary accomplishments for English assistants in the Riviera. They are engaged to dispense English prescriptions, but some knowledge of French is advantageous. (3) See reply to No. 1. (4) See the article "English Pharmacy on the Riviera," *C. & D.*, July 27, 1895. (5) It is impossible for us to say whether it would

be wise or not for you to try your luck in South Africa before going to the Riviera. You overlook the fact that it is personal advice you wish, and that these replies are read by hundreds who may have designs upon South Africa, some of whom would come to the conclusion that what would suit you would suit them. We may say generally, however, that good qualified men do not as a rule require to wait long in South Africa before getting a situation, but there are dozens of assistants out there who cannot get employment. The salaries for qualified men begin at about 12l. 10s. to 15l. per month outdoors in Cape towns. See, however, the article on "Pharmacy in the Transvaal" which we printed last month. (6) No.

23/48. *J. P.*—You overlook the fact that Dr. Sydney Martin made cultures from tuberculous milk. It may be that fresh milk is bactericidal to some micro-organisms, but it does not follow that it is fatal to all, and, as far as we are aware, Dr. Leeds and Professor Conn do not touch the question of tuberculous milk.

7/29. *T. B. P.*—We have examined the sample of Shoe-dressing which you send us. It appears to be similar if not the same as the preparation for which you will find a formula in the Correspondence columns of our issue of March 17, 1894.

6/68. *Delphos*.—The preparation for restoring the surface of brown cloth contains a little ammonia and, apparently, pyrogallic acid; but we cannot determine the exact composition. Judging from the manner in which it is used, the ammonia is the active principle.

4/74. *W. T. G.*—The basis of the Neuralgic Powder is acetanilide, with which there is some ammonium chloride and vegetable matter.

11/90. Carbolic Tooth-powder.—The sample sent by a subscriber who wishes a powder to sink in water, is made with prepared chalk. The following formula is near the thing:—

Cretæ præparat.	3xij.
Pulv. iridis fior.	3j.
Pulv. cretæ rub.	3j.
Acid. carbol.	5j.
Otto rose	℥xxx.

M.

1/36. *A. F. H. S.*—To Make Pepsin from the stomach-juices of the pig, all that you require to do is to see that it is free from suspended matter, which you can insure by filtration through a flannel bag, then dry the juice by spreading it thin over porcelain dishes (*e.g.*, dinner-plates), and dry in warm air not exceeding 140° F. When dry, powder. The product will be good B.P. pepsin, but not equal to the best American scale pepsin. That is made from a hydrochloric solution of the juice, evaporated to a syrup, and scaled; but some makers precipitate the ferment with ammonium sulphate.

68/37. *W. H. R.*—There is no book dealing especially with the manufacture of concentrated infusions, &c., but you will find useful information in regard to fluid extracts and the like in Remington's "Pharmacy" (published by Burroughs, Wellcome & Co.), or Caspari's "Pharmacy" (reviewed in our Winter issue).

14/10. *Leno*.—Worms on Bowling-greens.—Lime-water is as good as anything, and much safer than the perchloride-of-mercury solution once in vogue. Your best plan is to sell liq. calc. sacch. at about 3s a gallon, directing a teacupful of it to be mixed with a pitcherful of water for sprinkling the green.

15/18. *W. H.*—Warrington's "Chemistry of the Farm" (Bradbury Agnew, 2s. 6d.).

14/32. *F. W. G.*—Have you tried benzene for removing the grease? It does not usually disturb the colours, except the latter are very bad.

14/52. *Casarea.*—Elixir Saccharini is elixir glusidi B.P.C.—i.e., saccharini, gr. xxiv.; sod. bicarb., gr. xij.; S.V.R., ʒj.; aq. dest., ʒvij. M. et S.

13/22. *Mancunian.*—Oil of Peter and British Oils are the same thing. See *C. & D. DIARY*, 1894, page 373. You correctly read the other substances.

14/29. *T. Davies.*—Thanks for your note and sample of Lin. Terebinth. We do not think it impossible to make the liniment as the B.P. directs, but "Laboratory" was of that opinion after hard trying. We give your note for his benefit:—"If 'Laboratory,' or anybody else who has found any difficulty with this liniment, will bear it in mind that it is not well to beat an emulsion mercilessly, they will find that it will turn out to be all that is desired in an emulsion."

14/9. *Spes.*—A formula for Marking-ink was given in our issue of February 22.

15/64. *F. H. B.*—We should like to see a sample of the hair-wash before giving a formula for "something like it."

15/64. *Ajax.*—(1) We are unaware whether the Violet-powders which you refer to are perfumed with otto of orris or with artificial violet (such as ionone or violette de Madère). The otto has long been in use by first-class perfumers, and gives a delightful odour, but is somewhat expensive, and for that reason a mixture of it and artificial violet has recently been largely used. (2) Try precipitated silica for White Tooth-paste; it is an excellent basis.

16/34. *Iago.*—We cannot give you any precise information regarding the elixir, except that it has been reported to contain tincture of red dock-root and opium, the latter in some form undoubtedly.

16/46. *Subscriber.*—Jamaican beeswax is one of the best that comes into the market now, and we consider it superior to Chilian for making Furniture-cream, but if you can assure yourself that the Chilian is free from paraffin it will serve the purpose equally well. It is paraffin-adulteration which has made time-honoured recipes behave so badly.

16/53. *L. S. S.*—Oil of mace and ox-bone marrow.

16/40. *Syphon.*—A liquefied carbonic-acid-gas apparatus would suit you best. Write to the advertisers of them for particulars. We cannot pretend to select what would suit you particularly.

16/64. *Yorkshireman.*—Alloxan, not aleone, is the substance used for making sympathetic blush. See any organic chemistry book for particulars.

17/65. *R. B.*—A. B. C. Liniment is a mixture of equal parts of the liniments of aconite, belladonna, and chloroform.

INFORMATION WANTED.

The Editor invites, on behalf of inquiring subscribers, postcard replies to the following:—

23/29. Makers of the old-fashioned Escourt's blue.

23/22. Who sells busts of Hahnemann in bronze?

22/15. Maker of Ogilvy's Pomade Divine, late of Regent Street and Fenchurch Street.

Next Week.

Tuesday, March 10.

Midland Pharmaceutical Association, Mason College, Birmingham, at 8 P.M. Paper by Mr. H. S. Shorthouse ("Laboratory Notes").

Royal Photographic Society, 12 Hanover Square, W., at 8 P.M. "Notes on Medical Photo-micrography," by Mr. Edmund Roughton, F.R.C.S., and Mr. Charles Cosens, M.R.C.S.

Pharmaceutical Society, 17 Bloomsbury Square, W.C. Evening meeting at 8.

Wednesday, March 11.

Brighton Junior Association of Pharmacy, at 9 P.M. Short Papers.

Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, W.C., at 8 P.M. Professor A. C. Haddon on "Peasant Life and Industries in Ireland."

Midland Chemists' Assistants' Association, Exchange Rooms, Birmingham, at 9 P.M. Short papers by members.

Thursday, March 12.

Chemists' Assistants' Association, 103 Great Russell Street, W.C., at 8.30 P.M. Mr. A. W. Gerrard on "Nutrient Preparations of Beef."

Saturday, March 14.

Royal Botanic Society, Regent's Park, at 3.45 P.M.

New Books.

Bailey, L. H. *Plant-breeding: Being Five Lectures upon the Amelioration of Domestic Plants.* 12mo. Pp. 306. 4s. net. (Macmillan.)

Brown, A. M., M.D. *The Natural Arsenical Waters of la Bourboule: Notes with Reference to their Therapeutic Value in the Treatment of Diathetic Maladies and Cachexias in General.* Post 8vo. Paper cover. Pp. 38. 1s. (Sanitary Publishing Co.)

Cayley, H. *Guide to Travellers on the Management of Health in Unhealthy Countries.* 16mo. Pp. 20. 1s. (H. Cox.)

Chute, H. N. *Physical Laboratory Manual for Elementary Science Classes.* Crown 8vo. Pp. 236. 2s. 6d. (Isbister.)

"Historicus." *Cocoa: All about it.* New edit. 4to. Pp. 110. 2s. 6d. (Low.)

Jones, W. L. (Editor). *The Mercantile Year-book and Directory of Exporters in London, Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Glasgow, Bristol, &c.* Year 1896. Tenth year of publication. Post 8vo. Cloth. Pp. 328. 6s. (Mercantile Guardian office.)

Lockwood, C. B. *Aseptic Surgery.* Notes written for *St. Bartholomew's Journal*. Crown 8vo. Pp. 250. 4s. (Pentland.)

Macdougall, A. W. *The Maybrick Case. A Statement of the Case as a Whole:* being three letters addressed to Sir M. White Ridley, M.P., her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department. 8vo. Paper covers. Pp. vi. and 268. By subscription. (Baillière & Co.)

The Dentists' Register. Printed and published under the direction of the General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdom. Edited by W. J. C. Miller. 1896. Royal 8vo. Cloth cover. Pp. 236. (Spottiswoode & Co.)

The Medical Register. Printed and published under the direction of the General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdom. Edited by W. J. C. Miller. 1896. Royal 8vo. Cloth cover. Pp. 1502. (Spottiswoode & Co.)